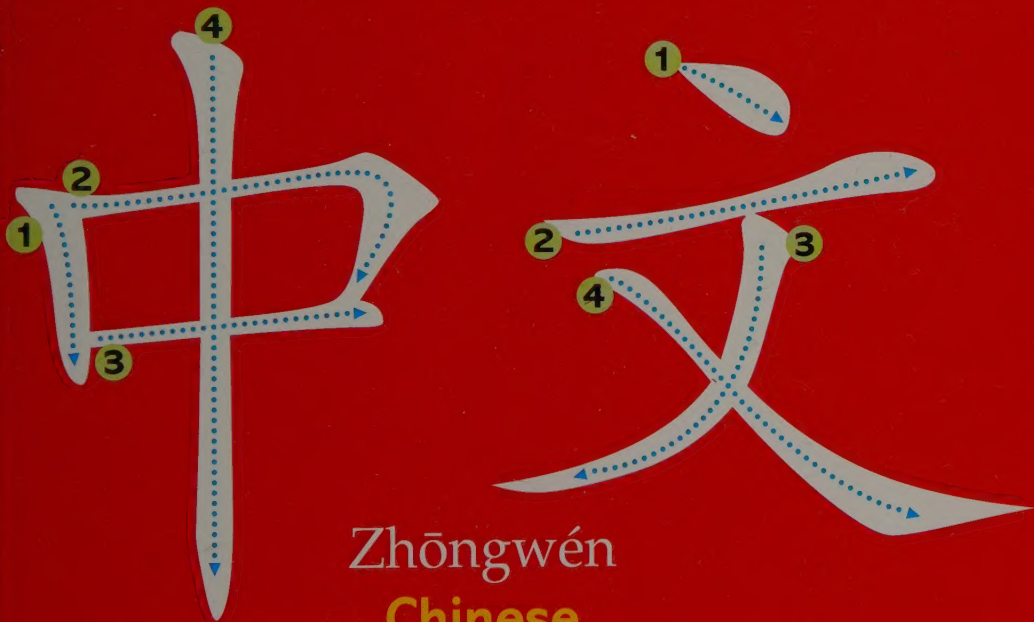




Get Talking

CHINESE

Workbook



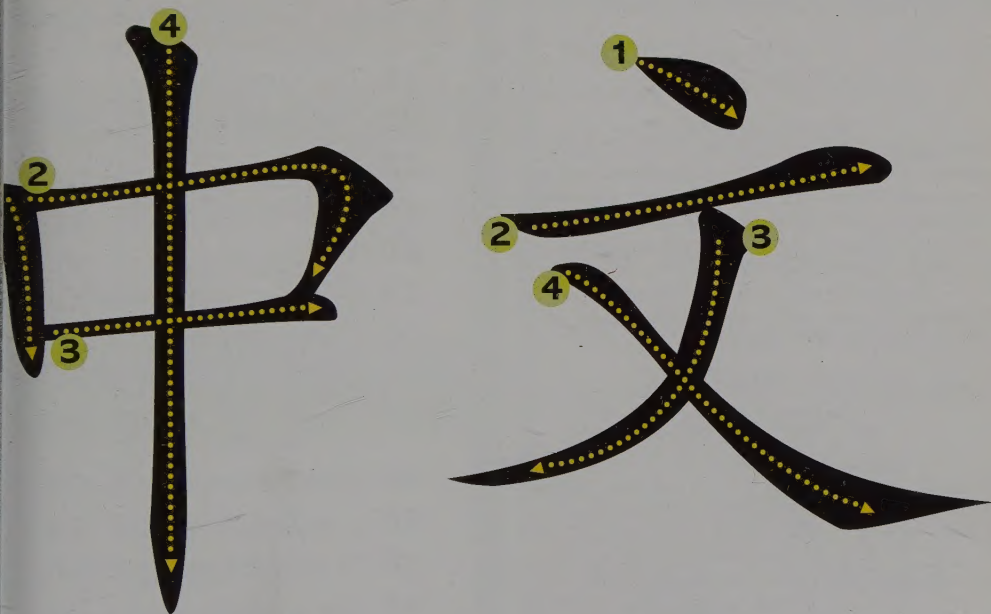
Zhōngwén
Chinese

Mandarin Chinese
practice for beginners



Get Talking **CHINESE**

Workbook



Mandarin Chinese
practice for beginners



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Foreword

This is a workbook, and learning Chinese is the mission. Here are five tips to help.

- 1 Take the chance to practice when you can.
- 2 Go slow. Half an hour a day is better than two straight hours.
- 3 Test yourself. Make flash cards and doodle characters in spare moments.
- 4 Check your work; repeat, repeat, and make sure it's all gone in.
- 5 Practice makes perfect, so using this workbook is a great start.



太好了!

Fantastic!



Top ten most common Chinese characters

These are all in the book.

1 de possessive particle

的

6 rén person

人

2 yī one

一

7 wǒ I

我

3 shì to be

是

8 zài at

在

4 bù no/not

不

9 yǒu to have

有

5 le verb particle

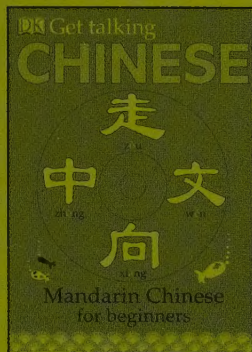
了

10 tā he

他

A companion book

This workbook is a companion book to *Get Talking Chinese* (available wherever books are sold). All the pronunciations are available on the CD attached to that book.



Using the workbook

Although this is a "work" book, it's fun, too! There is space to doodle and draw as well as other fun activities. Featured inside:

- Memory tips and pinyin practice
- How to write all the characters with clear stroke order
- Key characters that you won't forget
- Grid paper at the end of each section to help you practice what you've learned
- Pronunciation tips

Keeping it simple

This book includes useful and commonly used Chinese characters. The information is not overwhelming, with a pace of roughly six characters per double-page spread.

Remember, the secret to learning Chinese is:

慢慢来! Mǎn mǎn lái!
Take it easy!

Pinyin and tones

Chinese has no alphabet. The written language is made up of Chinese characters. These characters give no clue to pronunciation, so a pronunciation system has developed in roman letters. This system is called pinyin.

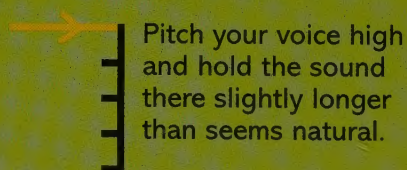
For example, 中文 is written **Zhōngwén** in pinyin.

Tones and tone marks

Mandarin Chinese has four tones, and one "toneless" tone. The tone you use when pronouncing each one-syllable sound determines the meaning. The tone marks - ' ^ ˇ on the vowel show which tone to use.

Here is how to pronounce the different tones:

1st tone high level



mā

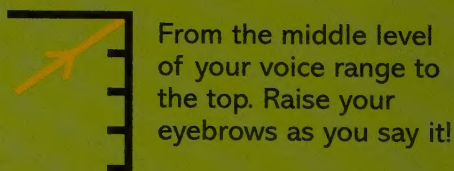
mother

As a doctor tells you when looking down your throat.
Say:

Aaah!



2nd tone rising



má

hemp

Like the tone at the end of a question.

What?



Numbering the tones

The tones are numbered, and when you are learning Chinese, it is good to know which tone is which number.

Practice by writing the tone marks on these pinyin words:

3rd tone: mi

4th tone: mi

1st tone: mi

1st tone: zhu

2nd tone: zhu

3rd tone: zhu

4th tone: ba

1st tone: ba

2nd tone: ba

3rd tone falling then rising



From the middle level, down deep, then up a bit.

mǎ

horse

Like when you're surprised.

Really?



4th tone falling



A short, sharp fall from your high voice pitch. Stamp your foot as you say it!

mà

scold

The tone of a statement.

No!



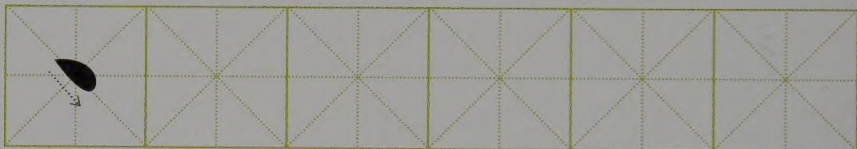
1 Characters

Different strokes

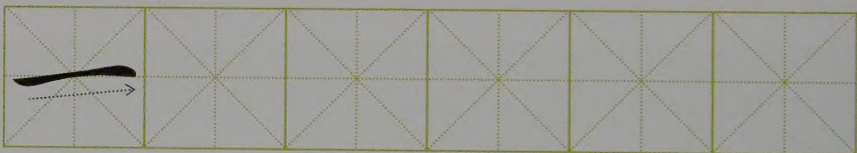
Chinese characters are not random squiggles. They are made up of set strokes.

Copy these strokes in the boxes provided. Follow the direction of the arrows.

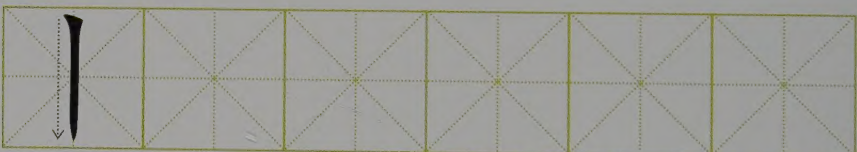
1



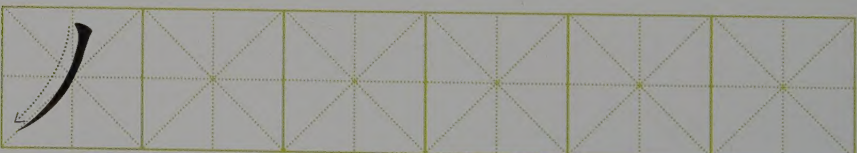
2



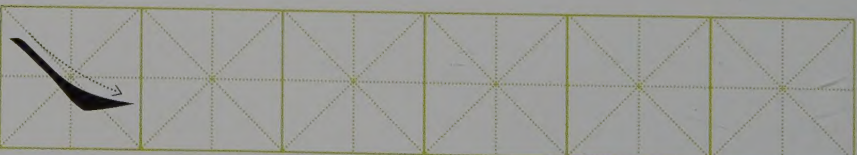
3



4



5



6



7



8



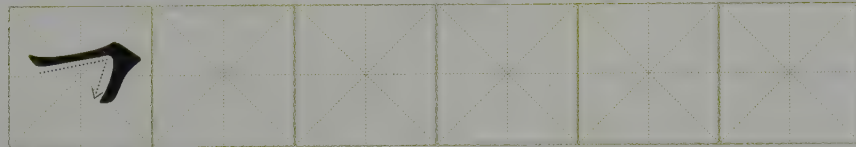
9



10



11



12



13



Stroke order

The characters are arranged in a set way, too. Follow the correct stroke order to write beautiful characters.

Follow the numbered strokes to write the characters.
The two general rules are:

1 Write top to bottom

三

sān
three



Trace

Freehand



2 And left to right

川

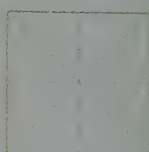
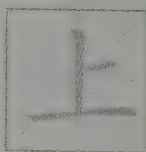
chuān
river



Practice writing these characters using the above two rules.

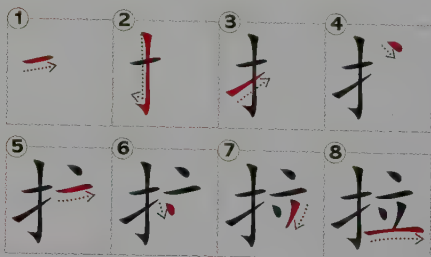
上

shàng
on/above



拉

lā
to pull



Common variations

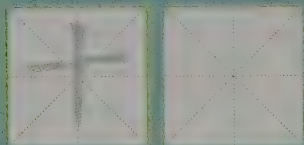
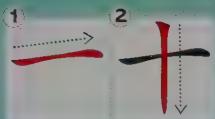
There are variations, however. It depended on what made fewer splotches when scholars used brushes and ink to write.

Here are some examples.

Horizontal before vertical

十

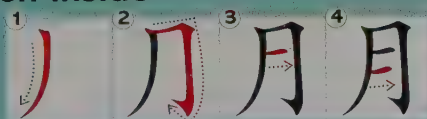
shí
ten



Outside then inside

月

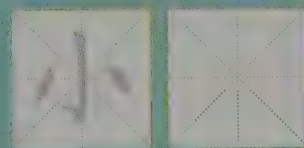
yuè
moon



Center before outside

小

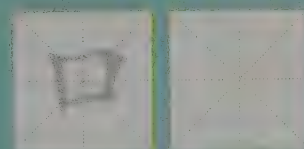
xiǎo
small



Left vertical first

口

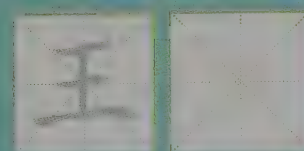
kǒu
mouth



Bottom horizontal last

王

wāng
king



Mixing it up

In any block of Chinese text, these different stroke orders are represented.

Try writing the characters in the boxes using the correct stroke order, then check your work afterward.



First cover up the right side of the dotted line.
No peeking!

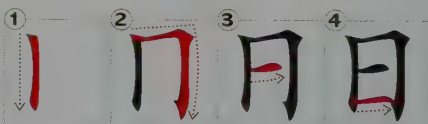
人

rén
person



日

rì
sun



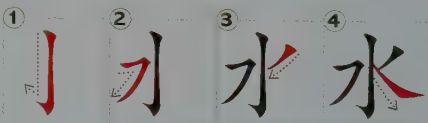
山

shān
mountain



水

shuǐ
water



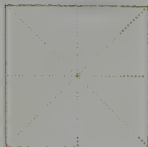
鸟

niǎo
bird



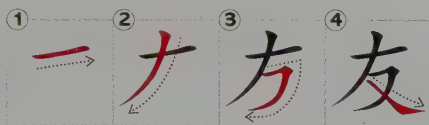
马

mǎ
horse



朋友

péngyou
friend



Did you get the stroke order right? If you did, good job! But don't worry if you didn't. This is an aspect of learning Chinese that will eventually become second nature—especially if you concentrate on following the stroke orders in this book.

Picture it!

The original characters, written more than 2,000 years ago, were pictures of things. Some Chinese characters to this day are pictographs. Drawing on characters (whether they are pictographs or not) is a good way to help you to remember them.

Draw on these characters. *Look at the example.*



sun



mountain



bird



horse

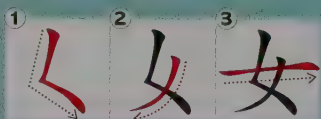
It's radical

Some characters can be found making up parts of other characters. These characters then become "radicals." There are 214 radicals in total, and they can give clues to meaning and pronunciation.

To start, practice writing these four characters:

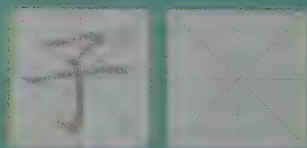
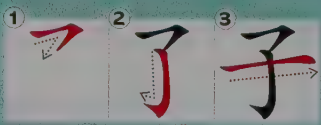
女

nǚ
mother



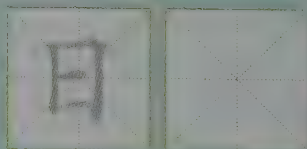
子

zǐ
child



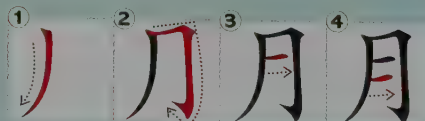
日

rì
sun



月

yuè
moon





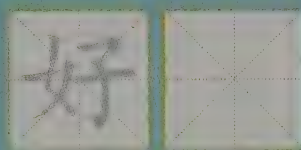
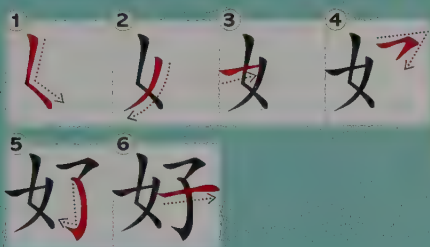
Notice how the meanings of the new characters directly relate to the meanings of the original characters.

Like building blocks, you put the characters together to make new ones.



好

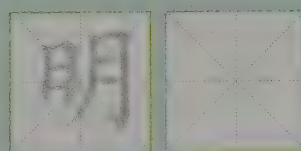
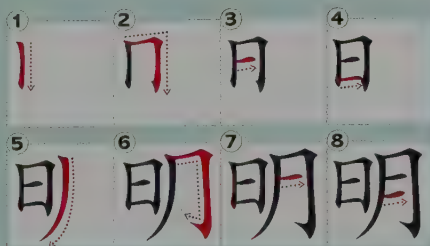
hǎo
good



(literally mother and child together)

明

míng
bright



(literally sun and moon together)

Character practice 1

Practice writing the characters from this section here.

三

川

土

拉

十

月

小

日

人

日

山

水

鸟

马

朋 友

好

明

2 Let's get started

First words

These are among the first words to learn in any language.

你好

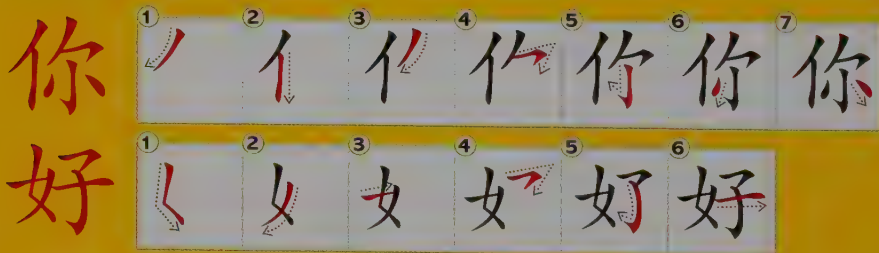
nǐ hǎo
hello



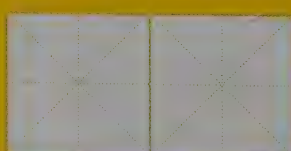
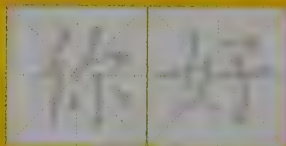
Copy the pinyin here:

.....

How to write it:



Your turn:



谢谢

xièxie
thank you

Your turn:

谢谢



再见

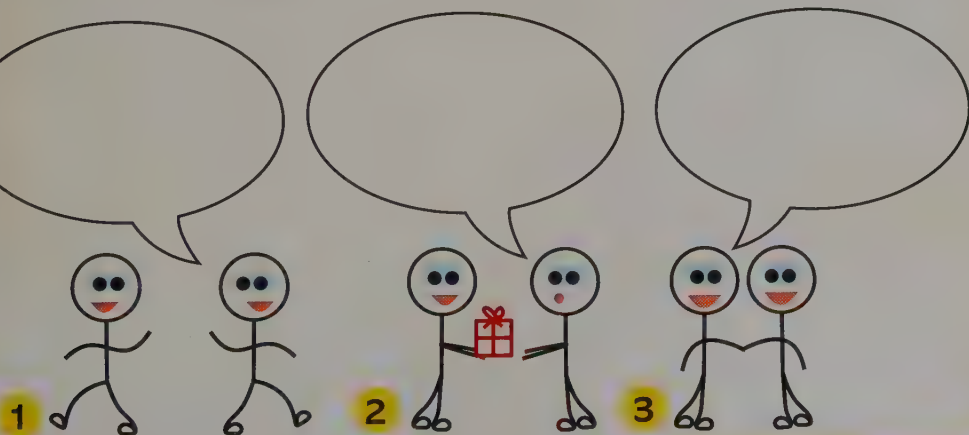
zàijiàn
good-bye

Your turn:

再见



Fill in the speech bubbles. What's the person saying?
Answers in the back.



How are you?

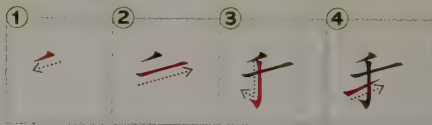
Asking "How are you?" is a good way to greet people in China, too.

First of all, learn these pronouns.

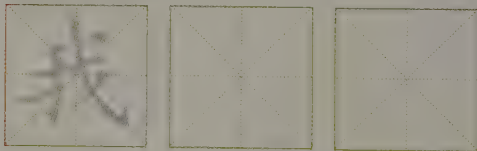
我

wǒ
I

How to write it:



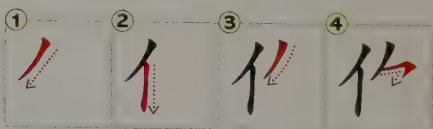
Your turn:



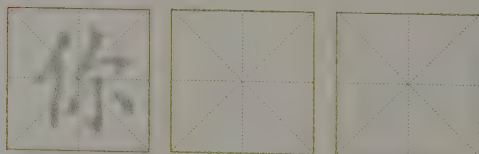
你

nǐ
you

How to write it:



Your turn:



Hello + “ma”

To say “How are you?” simply add “ma” to nǐ hǎo.

你 好 吗 ?

Nǐ hǎo ma?

How are you?

Your turn:

你 好 吗 ?

Copy the pinyin here:

.....

I'm very well

Now answer the question.

我 很 好

Wǒ hěn hǎo.

I'm very well.

Your turn:

我 很 好



Copy the pinyin here:

.....

.....

Where is it?

Being able to ask where things are will help you find your way in China.

First learn these key characters.

在哪儿?

zài nǎr...?
where is...?

Copy the
pinyin here:



.....

How to write it:

在 1 2 3 4 5 6

哪 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

哪 9

儿 1 2

Your turn:

在 那 儿 ?

Now ask the way

To ask where something is, you simply add “zài nǎr?” to the word for what you are looking for. Here is an example: **Fàndiàn** means restaurant. **Fàndiàn zài nǎr?** means “Where’s the restaurant?” (Translated literally, this means “Restaurant at where?”)

Ask where each of these places are, using pinyin.
Remember to put the noun first! *Answers in the back.*



1

饭店
fàndiàn
restaurant

Where is the restaurant?

.....



2

书店
shūdiàn
bookstore

Where is the bookstore?

.....



3

茶馆
cháguǎn
teahouse

Where is the teahouse?

.....



4

厕所
cèsuǒ
restroom

Where are the restrooms?

.....

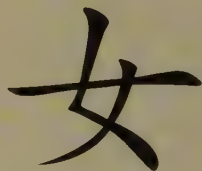
Ladies and gents

The characters for “man” and “woman” are good to know, especially because they are the bathroom signs in China.



Picture it

Draw a head, hands, and shoes on the character to help you remember it.



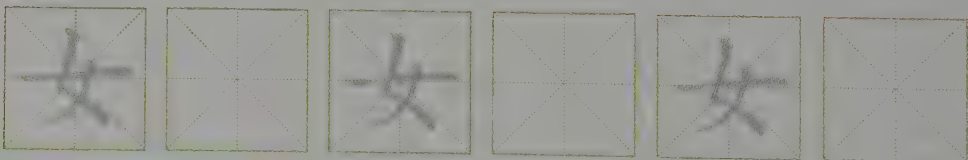
The pinyin for “nǚ” has two dots above the “u” indicating a round “ooo” sound.



How to write it:



Your turn:



Three characters for the price of one

The character for “man” is made up of two other characters:

田 + 力 = 男

tián
field

lì
strength

nán
man

Together they literally mean “strength in the field.”

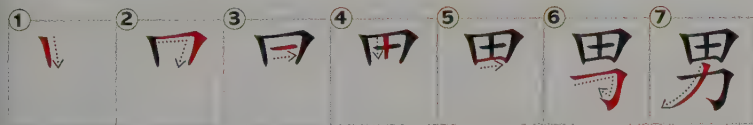
When the character was invented more than 2,000 years ago, most men worked in paddy fields.



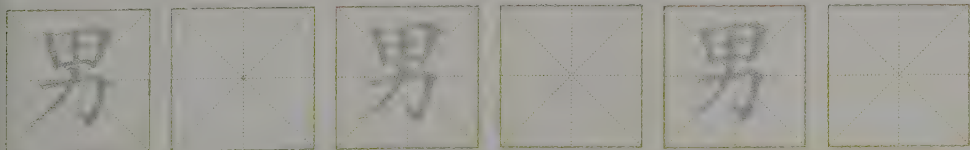
Memory tip!

Change the “m” in “man” to an “n” and you get “nan”!

How to write it:



Your turn:



Welcome!

Give a warm welcome by inviting someone in for a nice cup of tea.

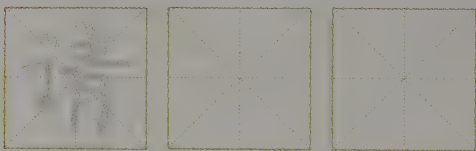
请

qǐng
please
(pronounced "ching")

How to write it:



Your turn:



Fill in the spaces with one (or two) of these characters in the boxes.
Answers in the back.

进

喝茶

坐

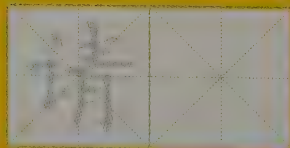
1



Please
come in!



Your turn:



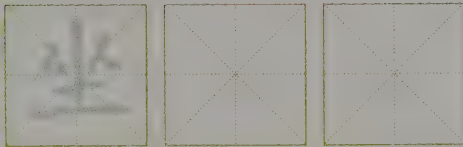
jìn
to enter

Your turn:



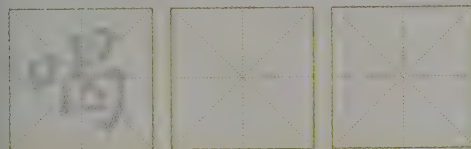
zuò
to sit

Your turn:



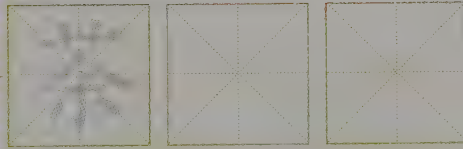
hē
to drink

Your turn:



chá
tea

Your turn:



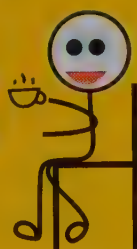
2

Please sit
down!

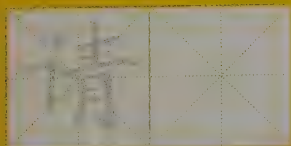


3

Please have
a cup of tea.



Your turn:



Your turn:



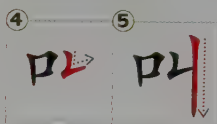
What's your name?

Learn how to reply when someone asks you what your name is.

叫

jiào
to be called

How to write it:



Your turn:

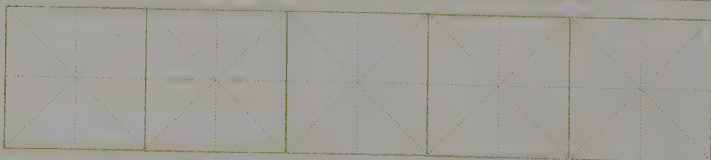
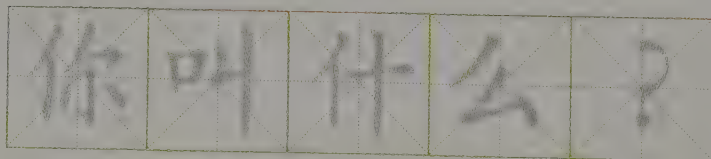


你叫什么？

Nǐ jiào shénme?

Your turn:

What's your name?



我 叫 王 英

Wǒ jiào Wáng Yīng.

I'm called Wang Ying.

Wang is a common last name. Note: Last names come first in China.

Ying is a common first name and means "brave."

Your turn:

我 叫 王 英

王 英

Answer the question using pinyin and your own name.



Nǐ jiào
shénme?



Character practice 2

Practice the characters from this section here.

你好

谢谢

在见

我

你

你好吗？

我很好

在哪儿？

饭店

书店

茶馆

厕所

女

男

请

More to do!

Keep going. This section includes these characters, too.

进

坐

喝

茶

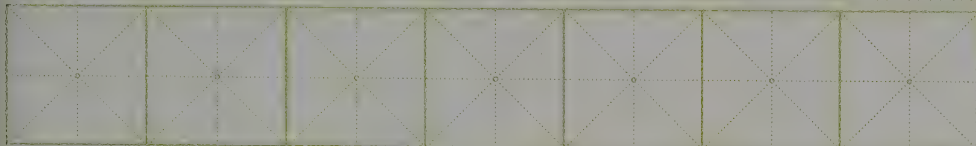
请 进

请 坐

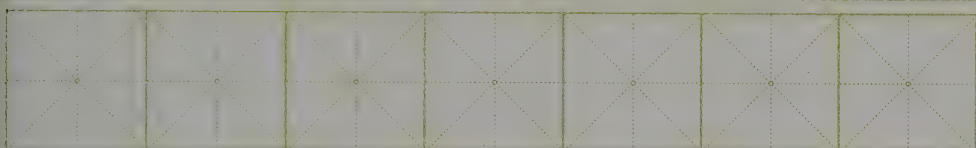
请 喝 茶

叫

你 叫 什 么 ？

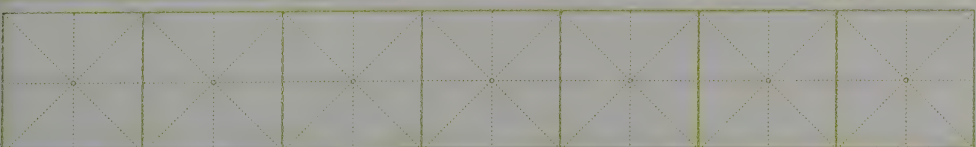
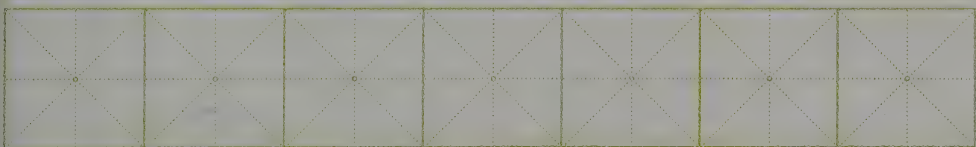
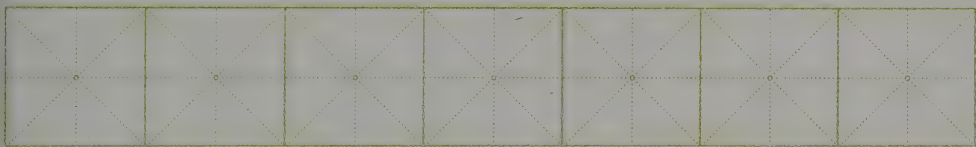


我 叫 王 英



Practice squares

Extra space for extra practice.

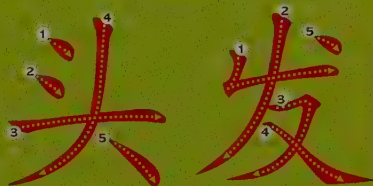


Head...

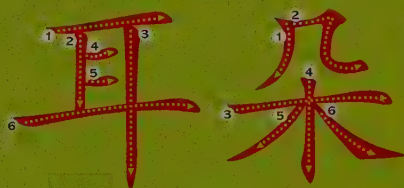
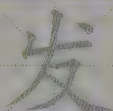
These next pages include body vocabulary, starting at the top.



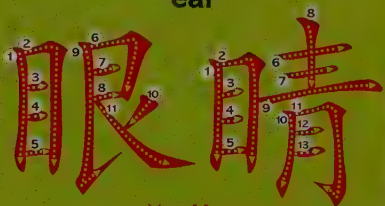
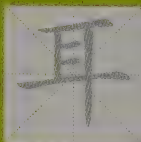
tóu
head



tóufa
hair



ěrduo
ear



yǎnjing
eye



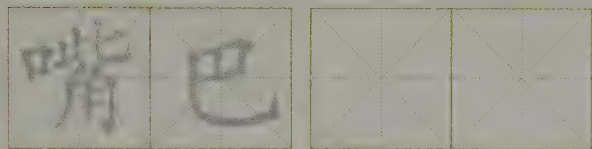
鼻子

bízi
nose



嘴巴

zuǐba
mouth



Label the girl's head with the correct characters,
or pinyin...or both! Whichever you prefer.



...to tail

Copy the Chinese characters for the parts of the body.

1 2 3 4 5 6
肚子

dùzi
stomach

肚子



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14
胳膊

gēbo
arm

胳膊



1 2 3 4
手

shǒu
hand

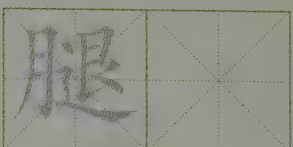
手



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13
腿

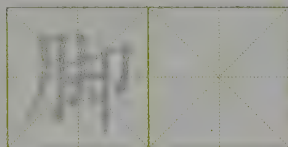
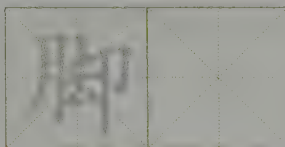
tuǐ
leg

腿



脚

jiǎo
foot



Label the lady.



Sizing things up

Here are two really easy characters to learn: big and small.

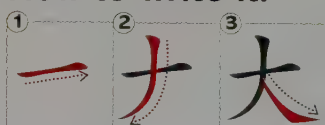


Picture it

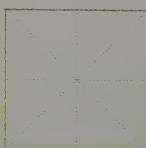
The character for “big” looks like a man with outstretched arms. Draw on hands and a head.



How to write it:



Your turn:



Copy the pinyin here:
.....

Big or small?

Write whether the objects are big or small in Chinese characters. *Answers in the back.*

1



2



Itty bitty things

With Chinese characters, *small* details matter. For example: 小
Take note of the little dots on each side, and the little flick up to the left on the down stroke.



xiǎo
small

(pronounced "sh-yaow")

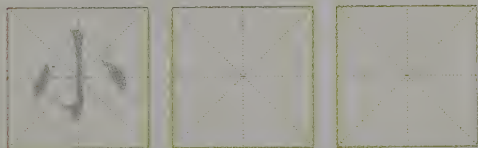
Remember, all Chinese characters take up the same amount of space on the paper and there is an equal distance between each one.

学习中文很有意思。中文的字很漂亮。我喜欢学习中文。你呢？

How to write it:



Your turn:

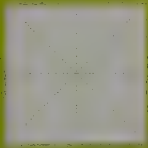


Copy the pinyin here:

.....



3



4



De-der!

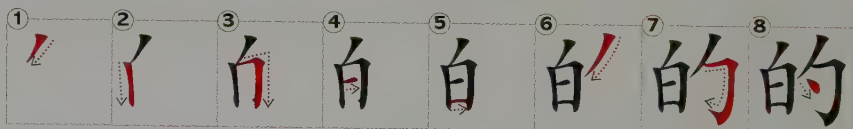
This character is the number one most common character in Chinese. Its meaning isn't too glamorous. It's the possessive particle.

No. 1

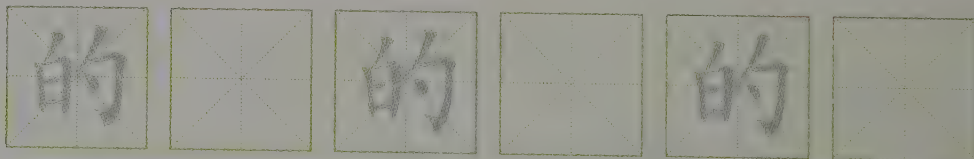
的

de
[possessive
particle]

How to write it:



Your turn:



"De" can be added to just about anything as a connector. It shows possession. For example, in English, an apostrophe "s" is used: "The ship's cat" means "the cat that belongs to the ship." In Chinese, "de" is used, so you would say, "ship de cat." That is why it is so common.

“I” into “my”

Here “de” is used to make “I” into “my,” and “you” into “your.”

我的

wǒ de
my

我的

你的

nǐ de
your

你的

他的

tā de
his

他的

她的

tā de
her

她的

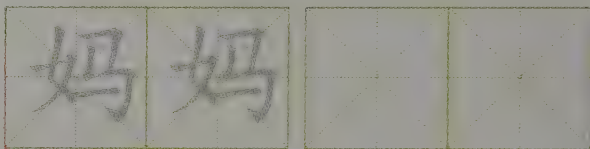
“Tā de” (his) and “tā de” (her) differ only in the characters. Notice the woman radical making the difference.

Family and friends

There are two words for “brother” and two for “sister” depending on whether older or younger.

妈 妈

māma
mother



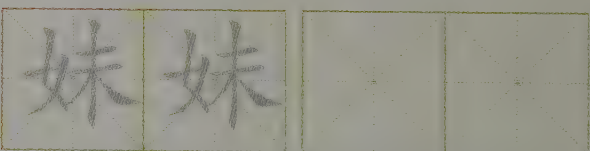
爸 爸

bàba
father



妹 妹

mèimei
younger sister



姐 姐

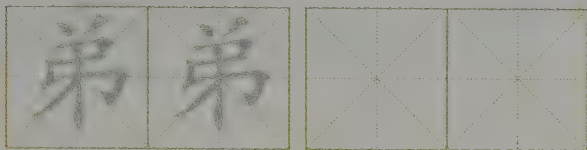
jiějie
older sister



弟

dìdi

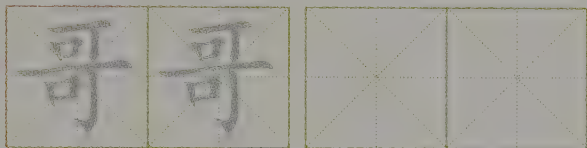
younger brother



哥

gēge

older brother



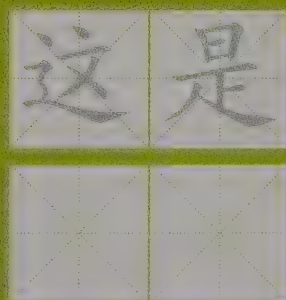
Making introductions

Knowing how to introduce someone is polite and useful.

Your turn:

这是

zhè shì
this is



Put these words together to introduce a family member.

For example:

Zhè shì

+

wǒ de

+

mèimei.

=

This is

my

younger sister.

Write "This is my mother" in pinyin here:

Answer in the back.



Character practice 3

Practice writing the characters from this section here.

头

头发

耳朵

眼睛

鼻子

嘴巴

肚子

胳膊

脚

手

腿

大

小

的

我的

你的

他的

More to do!

Keep going. This section includes these characters, too.

她的

妈妈

爸爸

妹妹

姐姐

弟弟

哥哥

这是

Practice squares

Extra space for extra practice.



4 Countries

The Middle Kingdom

In ancient times, the regions around China paid tribute to the Chinese Emperor, and China came to be called the Middle Kingdom.

中国



zhōng
中 means
"middle"

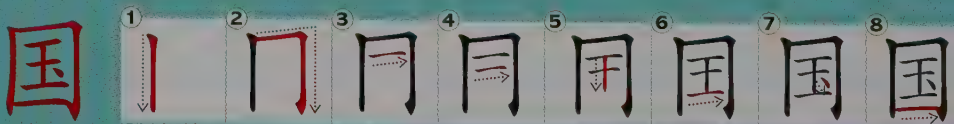
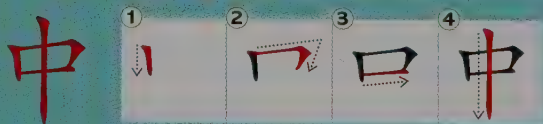
guó
国 means
"kingdom"

Zhōngguó
China

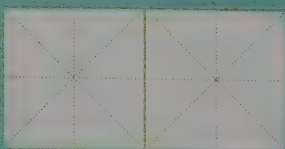
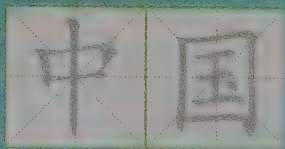


Copy the pinyin for
"China" here:

How to write it:



Your turn:



A character with legs

The character for “person” is an ancient pictogram and looks like two legs walking.

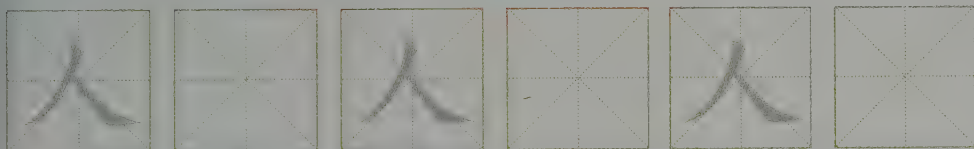
How to write it:



Picture it! Draw a head and feet on the character to help you remember it.



Your turn:



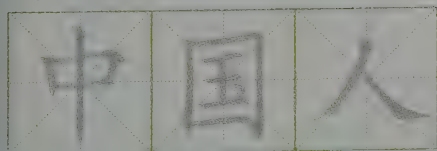
Just add “rén” to “Zhōngguó” to say “Chinese person.”

中国人

Zhōngguórén

Chinese person

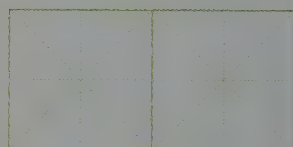
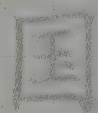
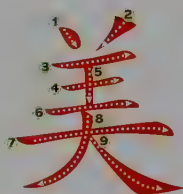
Your turn:



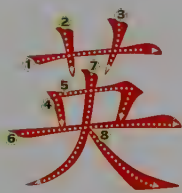
Countries of the world

In Chinese, the names of other countries are translated using characters with the appropriate sound. Or they can be literal translations, in the case of Japan.

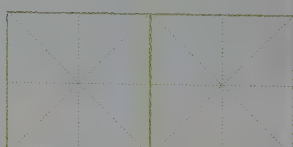
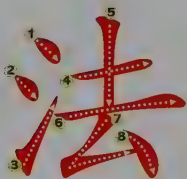
Translating the characters gives interesting, and flattering, results. Some country names are purely phonetic, however, as with “Holland” (The Netherlands).



Měiguó USA (“beautiful country”)



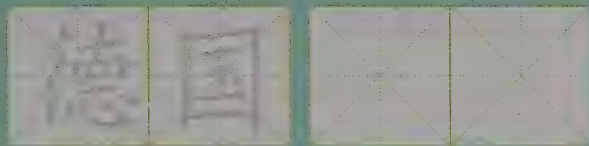
Yīngguó Britain (“brave country”)



Fǎguó France (“legal country”)

德

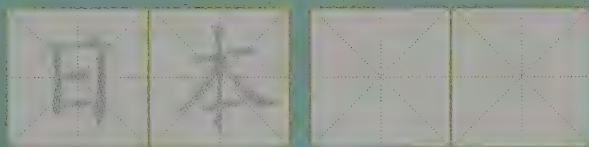
国



Déguó Germany ("virtuous country")

日

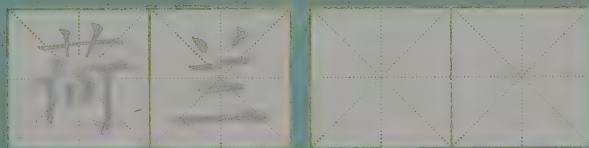
本



Rìběn Japan ("rising sun")

荷

兰



Hélán Netherlands (phonetic "Holland")

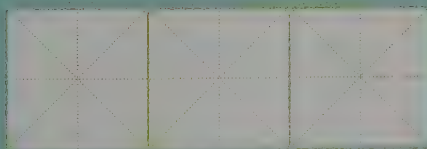
加

拿

大



Jiānádà Canada (phonetic)



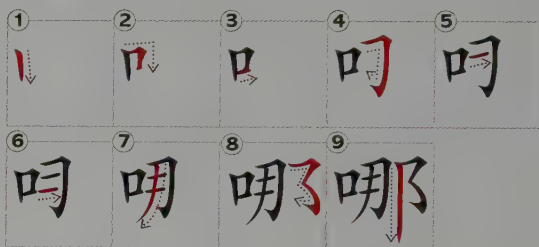
Where are you from?

This is the question strangers in China will ask you before any other.

哪

nǎ
which

How to write it:



Your turn:



Copy the question and answer in the boxes provided.

你是哪国人?

Nǐ shì nǎ guó rén? Which country are you from?

--	--	--	--	--	--

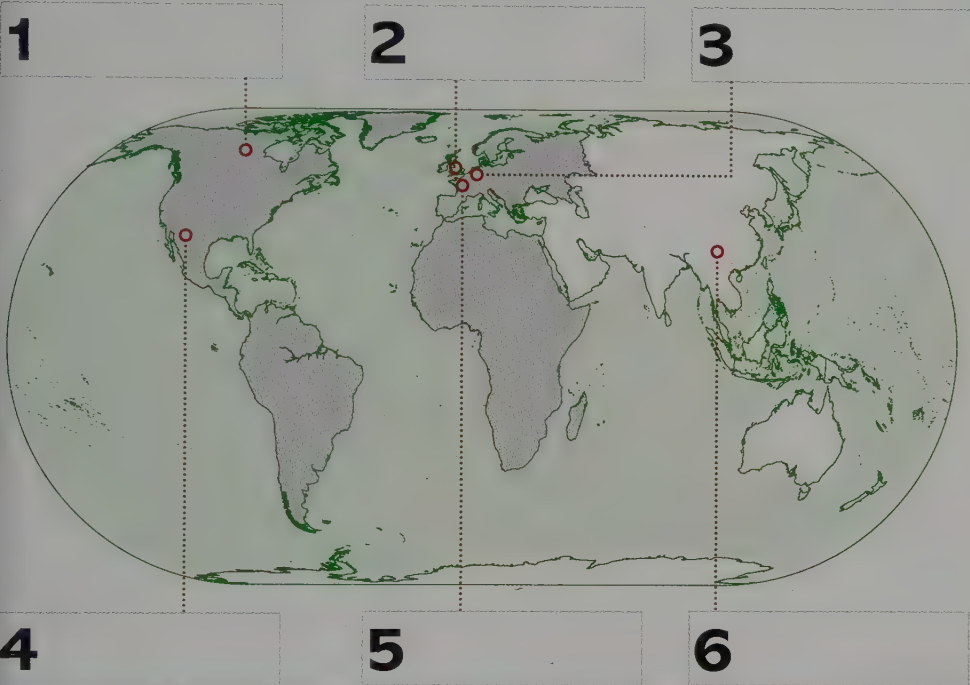
我是美国人

Wǒ shì Měiguó rén. I am American.

--	--	--	--	--	--

Geography test

Look back a page at the countries' names, then try labeling the globe using pinyin. *Answers in the back.*



Your turn

Translate from English into pinyin.

Answers in the back.



Remember, by adding “rén” to the country’s name you are saying “people” of that country.

- 1 Where are you from?
- 2 I am American.
- 3 I am French.
- 4 I am Japanese.

Character practice 4

Practice writing the characters from this section here.

中国

人

中国人

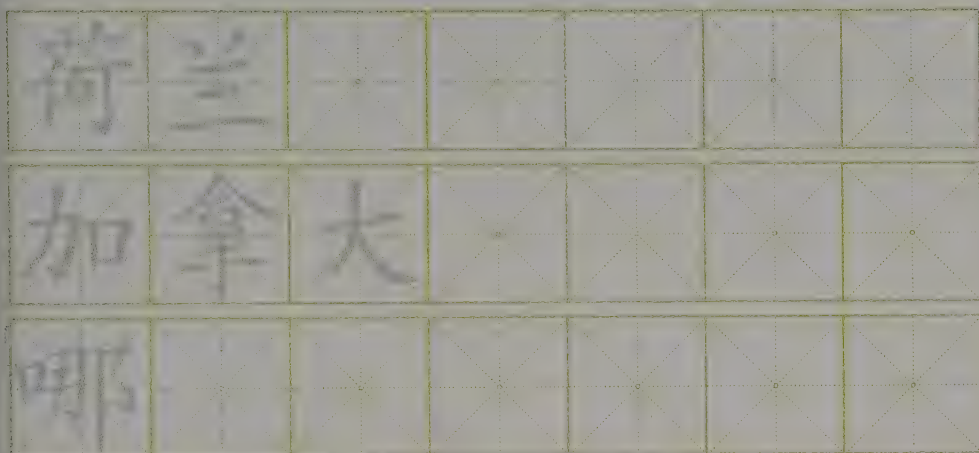
美国

英国

法国

德国

日本



Practice squares

Extra space for extra practice.



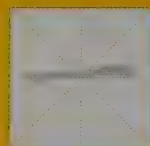
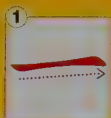
5 Numbers

Numbers 1-10

Learning numbers 1-10 is simple and very useful. The characters for numbers 1-3 are the easiest of them all.

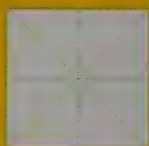
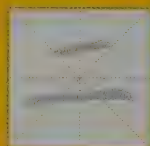
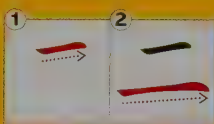
一

yī
one



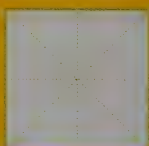
二

èr
two



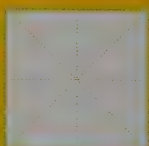
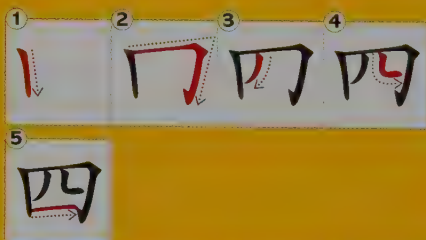
三

sān
three



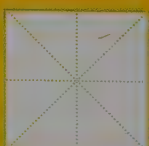
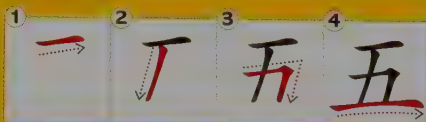
四

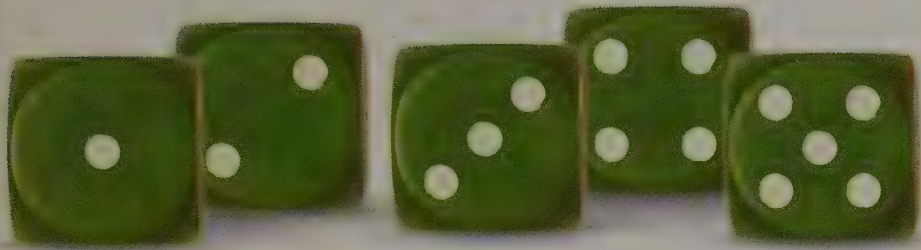
sì
four



五

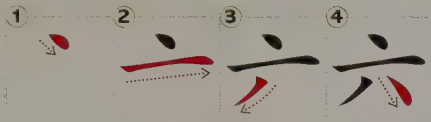
wǔ
five





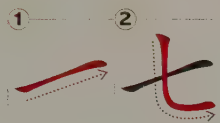
六

liù
six



七

qī
seven



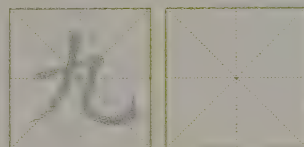
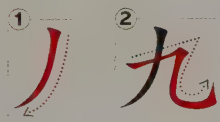
八

bā
eight



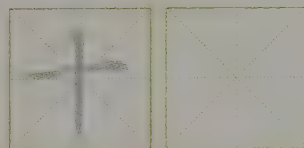
九

jiǔ
nine



十

shí
ten



10 to a million

To count above 10, it takes some simple math.

- If a number comes *after* 10 (十), you *add* it to 10.
- If a number comes *before* 10 (十), you *times* it by 10.

How it works...

十三

shísān

13

3 *after* 10
so that means $10 + 3$

三十

sānshí

30

3 *before* 10
so that means 3×10

三十二

sānshíèr

32

2 *after* and 3 *before* 10
so that means
 $(3 \times 10) + 2$

What are these numbers? *Answers in the back.*

1 十五

5 二十三

2 四十

6 七十一

3 十八

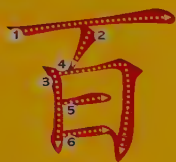
7 九十九

4 十四

8 五十八

100 +

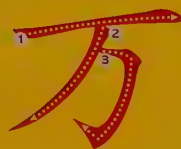
Higher numbers string together in the same way, with 10, 100, 1,000, and so on acting as “stops.” Practice writing the number words, then try the math test below.



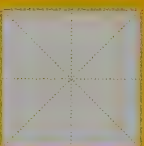
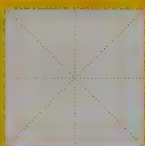
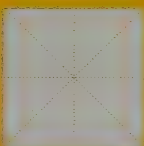
bǎi
100



qiān
1,000



wàn
10,000



Look at these numbers as an example:

四百三十

sìbǎisānshí

430

三千二百

sānqiānèrbǎi

3,200

五万

wǔwàn

50,000

Math test

Do you know what these numbers are? *Answers in the back.*

① 二百三十

② 六万

③ 四千三百

④ 九万

Days of the week

Here numbers 1-6 count out the days of the week.

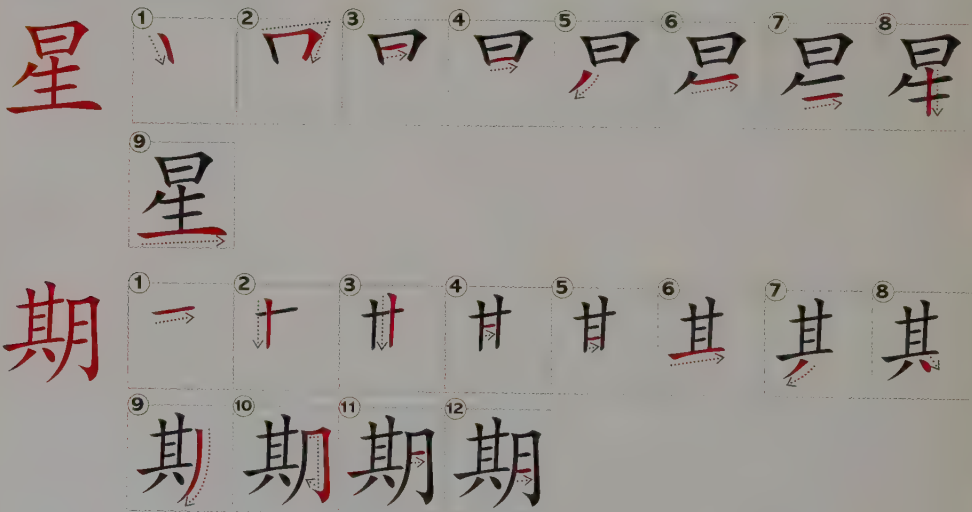
星期

xīngqī

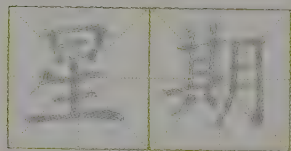
weekday

(pronounce this "shingchee")

How to write it:



Your turn:



Once you can write “weekday” in Chinese, you add the numbers 1–6 to get Monday (literally “weekday 1”) to Saturday (“weekday 6”). Only Sunday is different.

Monday *xīngqīyī*
星期一

Tuesday *xīngqīèr*
星期二

Wednesday *xīngqīsān*
星期三

Thursday *xīngqīsì*
星期四

Friday *xīngqīwǔ*
星期五

Saturday *xīngqīliù*
星期六

Sunday *xīngqītiān*
星期天

Months of the year

Once you've learned the basic numbers, it's really easy to also learn the months of the year.

First learn this character, which is a pictograph of the moon.

月

yuè
moon/month



Copy the pinyin
here:

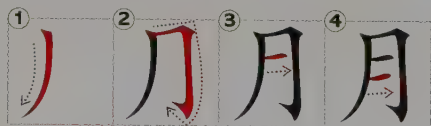
.....

Picture it

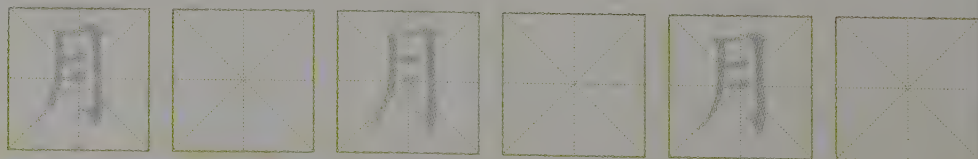
Draw on the
character and
turn it into a
crescent moon.

月

How to write it:



Your turn:



January

一月

yīyuè



February

二月

èryuè



March

三月

sānyuè



April

四月

sìyuè



May

五月

wǔyuè



June

六月

liùyuè



July

七月

qīyuè



August

八月

bāyuè



September

九月

jiǔyuè



October

十月

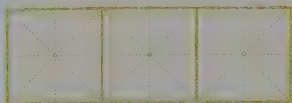
shíyuè



November

十一月

shíyīyuè



December

十二月

shíèryuè



Birthday party

People in China are likely to celebrate their birthdays with a cake and by singing "Happy Birthday" (in Mandarin, of course).

生日快乐!

Shēngrì kuàilè!

Happy birthday!

How to write it:



生

1 2 3 4 5

日

1 2 3 4

快

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

乐

1 2 3 4 5

Your turn:

生日你乐!

--	--	--	--	--	--

Note how punctuation needs a whole box.



How old are you?

There are two ways to ask this question in Chinese. The first is for adults and older children:



Nǐ duō dà?
How old are you?

Your turn:



The second is for
children under ten:

你几岁?

Nǐ jǐ suì?

How old are you?

Answer the question
using your number
knowledge by
inserting your age in
the space provided.

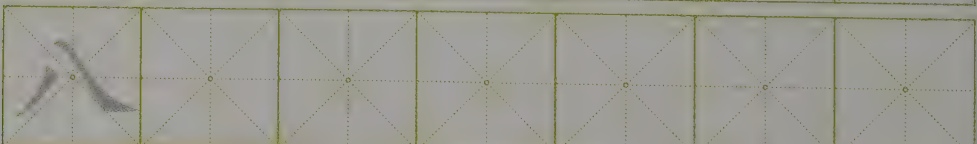
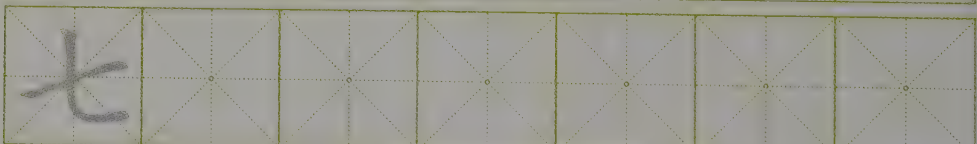
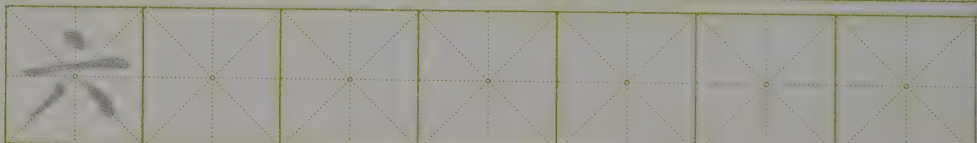
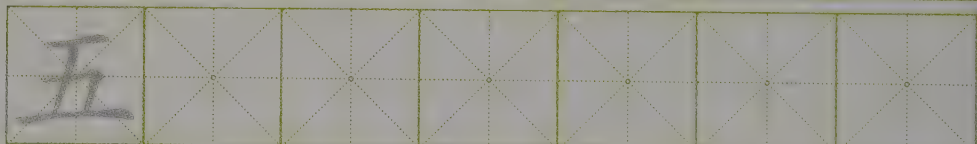
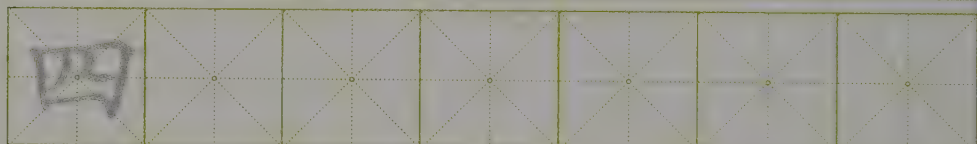
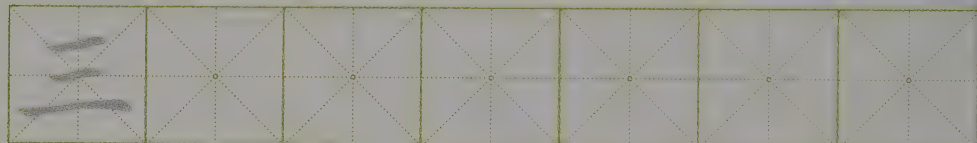
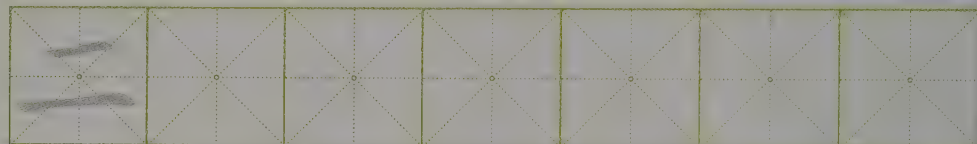
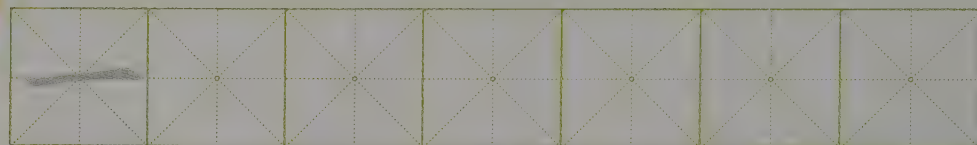
我 岁

Wǒ suì.

I'm years old.

Character practice 5

Practice writing the characters from this section here.



九

十

百

千

万

星期一

星期二

星期三

星期四

More to do!

Keep going. This section includes these characters, too.

星期五

星期六

星期天

一月

二月

三月

四月

五月

六月

七月

八月

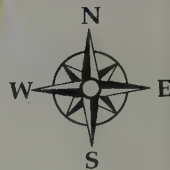
九月

十月

十一月

十二月

生日你乐！



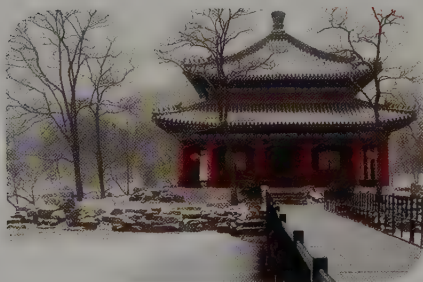
North to south

China is big, and major cities experience different weather.



北

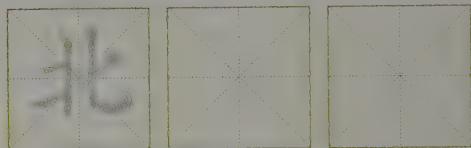
běi
north



How to write it:



Your turn:

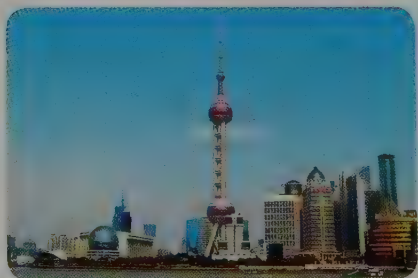


Beijing (literally meaning “northern capital”) is in north China. It’s hot in the summer, and below freezing in winter.



东

dōng
east



How to write it:



Your turn:



Shanghai is in the east. It has a warm spring, a hot, rainy summer, a cool autumn, and a cold winter.



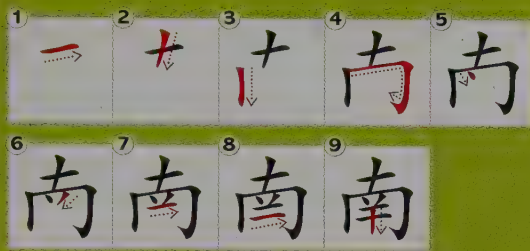
南

nán

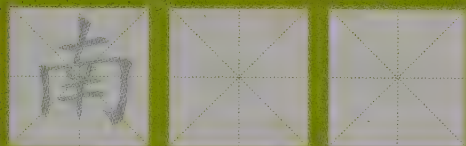
south



How to write it:



Your turn:



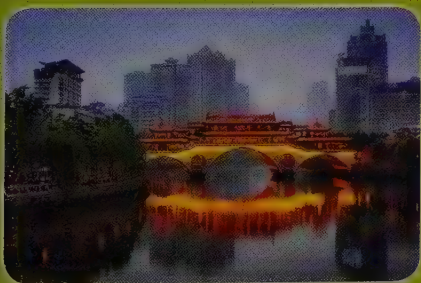
Guangzhou (Canton) is in the south.
It has warm winters and hot, humid summers.



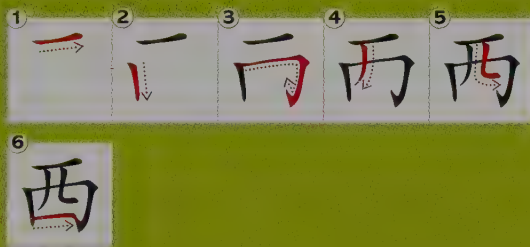
西

xī

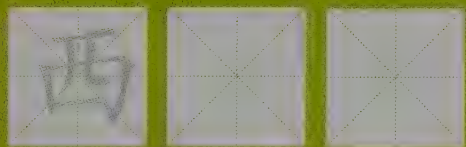
west



How to write it:



Your turn:



Chengdu is in the west. It's warm in spring, sultry in summer, and rainy in autumn. The winter is cold.

Seasons

The seasons in China vary depending on where you are.



First learn the character common to them all, then practice writing the seasons in the boxes.

天

tiān
day/heaven

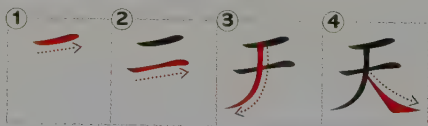
Picture it

See how the character has formed:

人 person
大 big
天 heaven

What is bigger than people? Heaven!

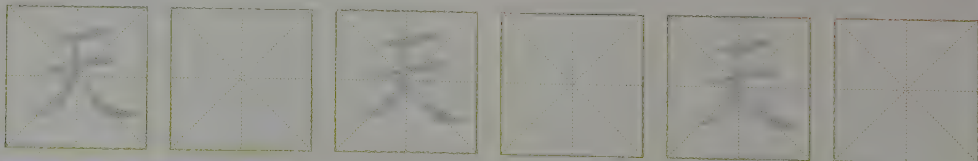
How to write it:



Copy the pinyin here:

.....

Your turn:





春天

夏天

chūntiān spring

xiàtiān summer

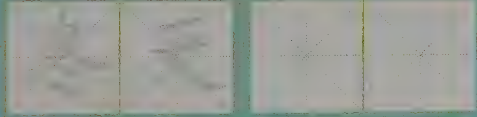


秋天

冬天

qiūtiān autumn

dōngtiān winter

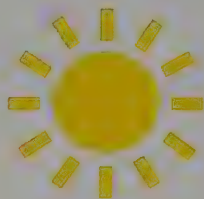


Weather words

Find out the weather forecast... in Chinese.

热

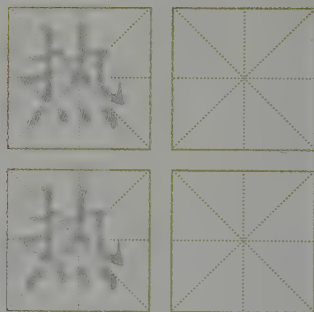
rè
hot



How to write it:



Your turn:

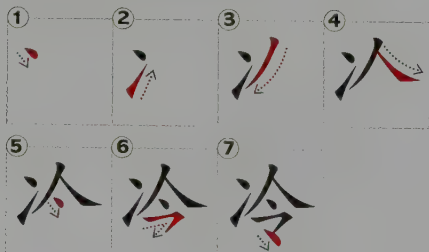


冷

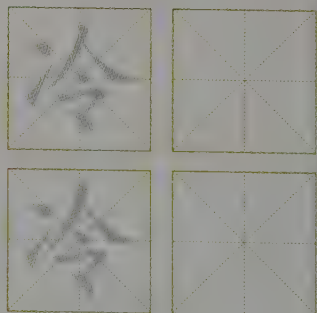
lěng
cold



How to write it:



Your turn:



下雨

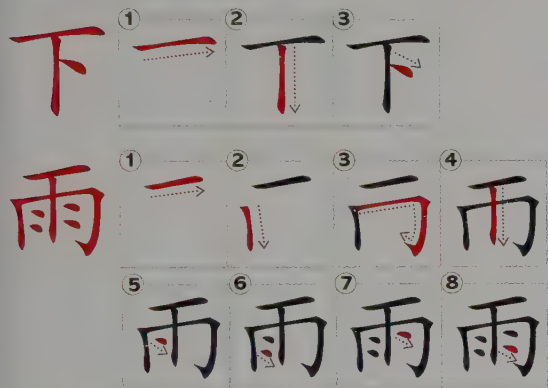
xià yǔ

rainy

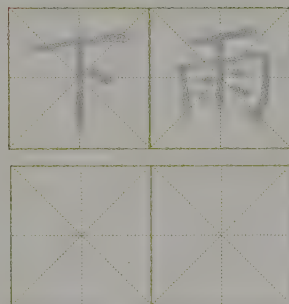
(pronounced "shar yoo")



How to write it:



Your turn:



刮风

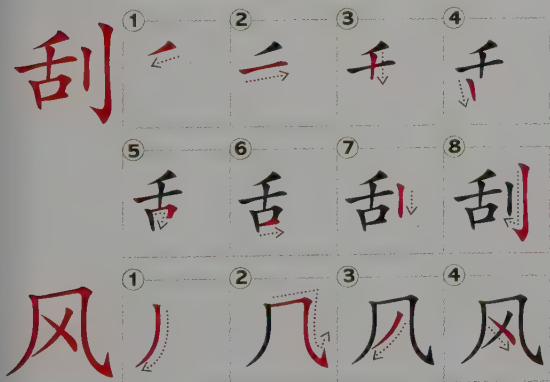
guā fēng

windy

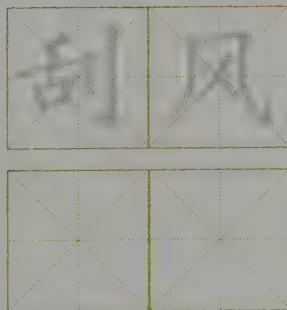
(pronounced "guh-wah fung")



How to write it:



Your turn:



Character practice 6

Practice writing the characters from this section here.

北

东

南

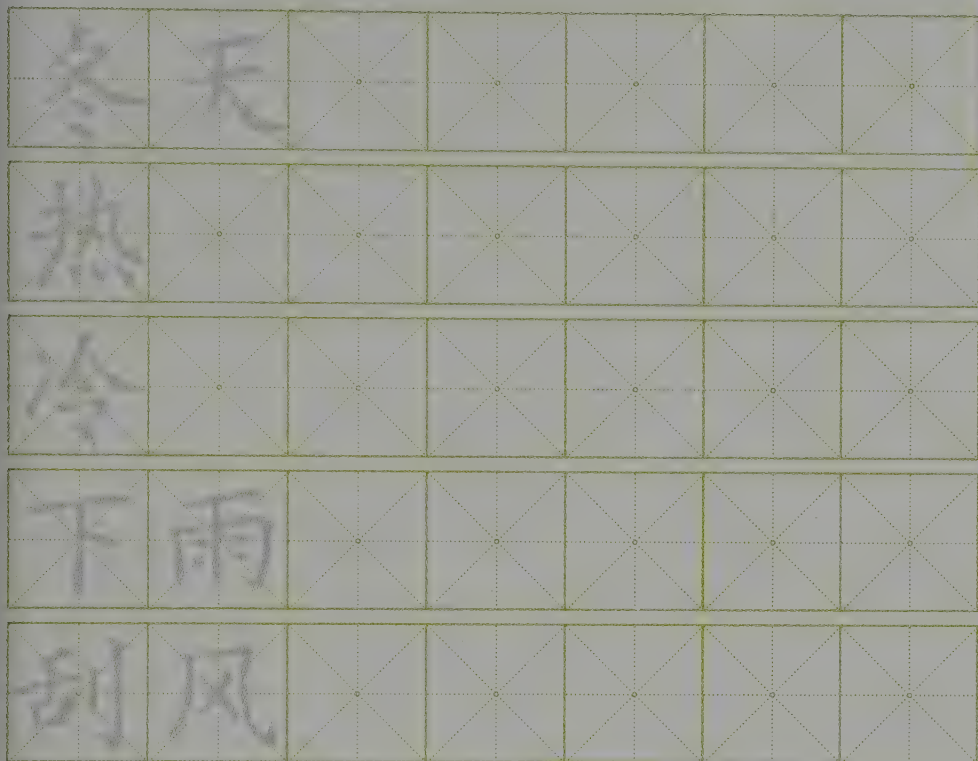
西

天

春天

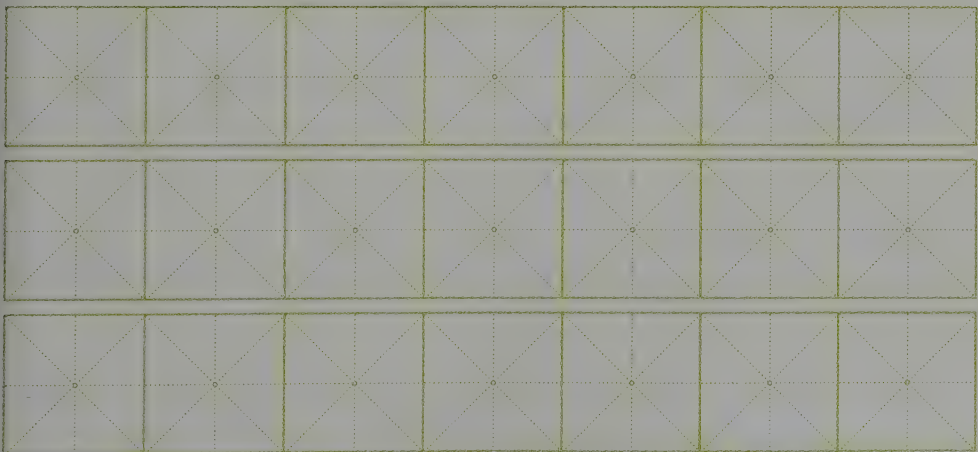
夏天

秋天



Practice squares

Extra space for extra practice.



7 Transportation

Traffic report

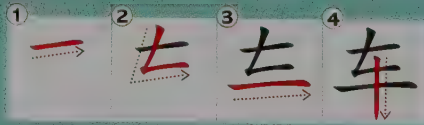
Knowing the words for “car,” “bus,” and “train” is useful for traveling on China’s public transportation system.

First learn this character:

车

chē
vehicle
(pronounced “ch-uh”)

How to write it:



Copy the pinyin here:
.....

Picture it

This character was originally a pictograph of a horse-drawn cart (as seen from above).

車

seal script

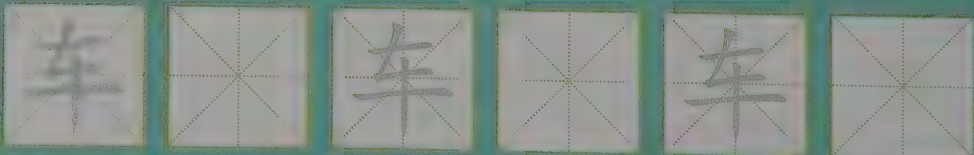
車

old style character

车

new character used in China today

Your turn:



Traffic jam

All these modes of transportation have “che” meaning “vehicle” at the end. “Airplane” is the exception. (“Feiji” literally means “flying machine.”)

飞机

fēiji
airplane

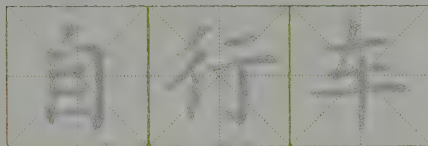
自行车

zìxíngchē

bicycle

(pronounced “z-uh shing ch-uh”)

Your turn:



火车

huǒchē

train

Your turn:

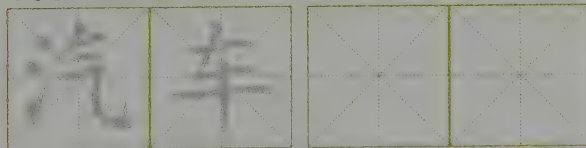


汽车

qìchē

car

Your turn:



出租车

chūzūchē

taxi



beep!



公共汽车

gōnggòngqìchē

bus



Finding the way

Make being lost in China a thing of the past with these useful words.

请问

qǐngwèn
excuse me

Your turn:



左边

zuǒbiān
left

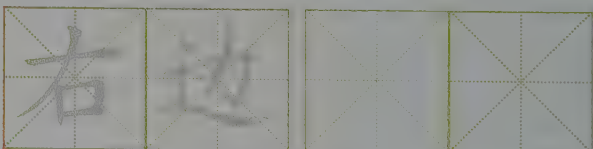
Your turn:



右边

yòubiān
right

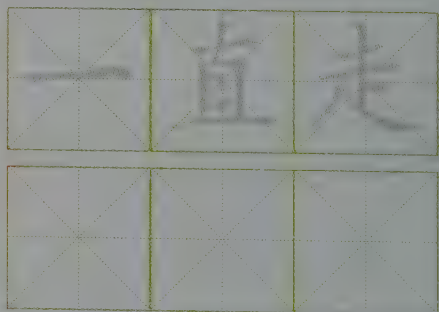
Your turn:

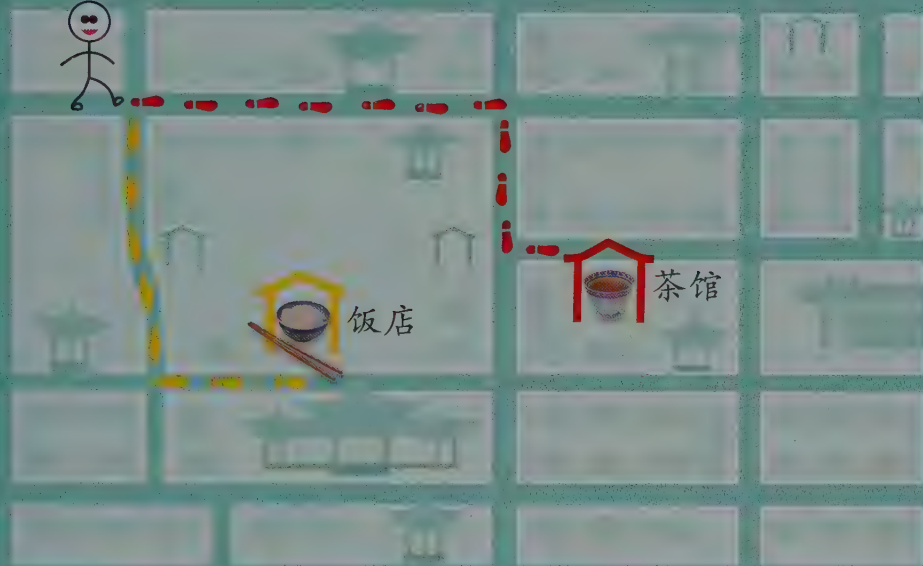


一直走

yìzhí zǒu
straight ahead

Your turn:





1 请问。饭店在哪儿?

Excuse me. Where is the restaurant?

yòubiān

yìzhízhǒu

zuǒbiān

2 请问。茶馆在哪儿?

Excuse me. Where is the tea shop?

zuǒbiān

yòubiān

yìzhízhǒu

Telling the time

If you are going somewhere, you will need to know what time your bus or train is leaving.

Follow these three rules:

- 1 Add “diǎn” to a number to say “o’clock.”
For example, “sān diǎn” is “three o’clock.”
- 2 Add “diǎn bàn” to say “half past.” For
example, “sān diǎn bàn” is “half past three.”
- 3 Add however many “fēn” (minutes) to make
other times. For example, “sān diǎn èrshí fēn”
is “3:20”—literally “3 o’clock, 20 minutes.”

Practice the new characters first.

点

diǎn
o’clock



Your turn:



半

bàn
half



Your turn:





fēn
minute

Your turn:



Now try to tell the time on the clocks. Follow the example. *Answers at the back.*

1



sān diǎn bàn

2



3



4



Buying a ticket

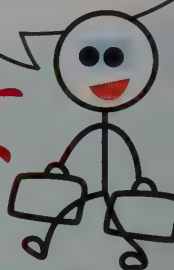
Asking to buy a ticket is the final step.

I want to buy a ticket to Beijing.

Here's how to ask:

我想买票。去北京

Wǒ xiǎng mǎi piào. Qù Běijīng.

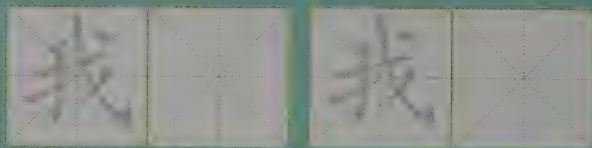


Here is the vocabulary broken down. Practice each word individually in the boxes.

我

wǒ
I

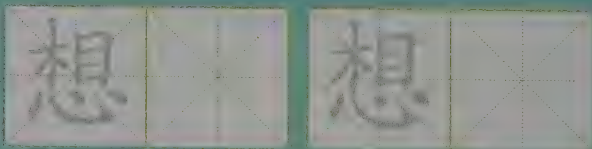
Your turn:



想

xiǎng
to want

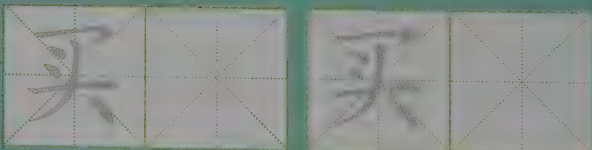
Your turn:

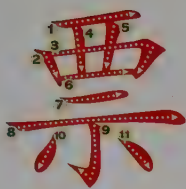


买

mǎi
to buy

Your turn:





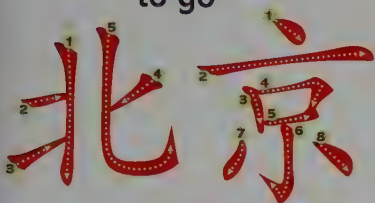
piào
ticket

Your turn:



qù
to go

Your turn:



Běijīng
Beijing

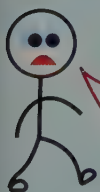
Your turn:



Now put the words together. (Note there are two sentences in the Chinese.)



Here are the simple answers you can expect to hear.



没有 Méi yǒu.

I don't have one.
(pronounced "may yo")

有 Yǒu.

I have one.
(pronounced "yo")



Character practice 7

Practice the characters from this section here.

车

自行车

火车

汽车

请问

左边

右边

一直走

点

半

分

我

想

买

票

去

北 京

8 Food

Chopsticks and bowl

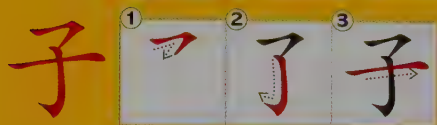
When in China, eating with chopsticks is the norm.

筷子

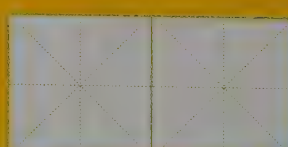
kuàizi
chopsticks

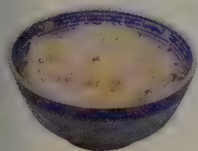


How to write it:



Your turn:

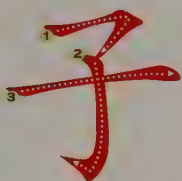
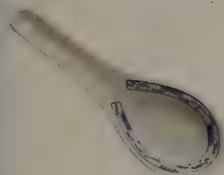
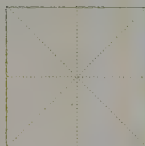




wǎn

bowl

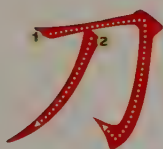
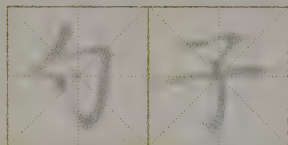
Your turn:



sháozi

spoon

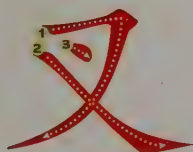
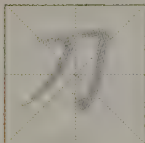
Your turn:



dāo

knife

Your turn:



chā

fork

Your turn:

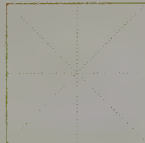


Table talk

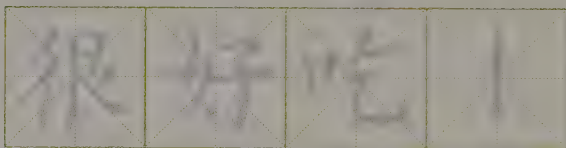
Impress people at your next Chinese meal by knowing some useful foodie phrases.

很好吃!

Hěn hǎo chī!

It's delicious!

Your turn:



Copy the
pinyin here:

.....
.....



我 自 己 来

Wǒ zìjǐ lái.

I'll help myself.

Your turn:

我 自 己 来



Copy the
pinyin here:

.....
.....

我 吃 饱 了

Wǒ chī bǎo le.

I'm full.

Your turn:

我 吃 饱 了



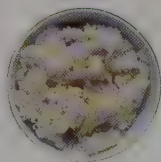
Copy the
pinyin here:

.....
.....

Reading a menu

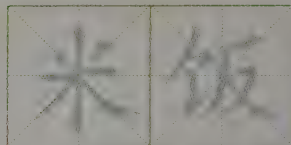
Look at the menu and choose a delicious dish.

Copy the characters.



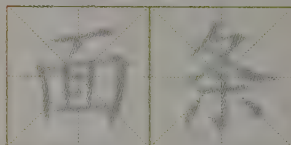
mǐfàn
rice

Your turn:



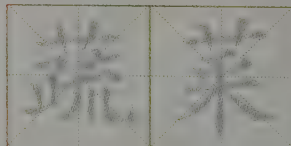
miàntiáo
noodles

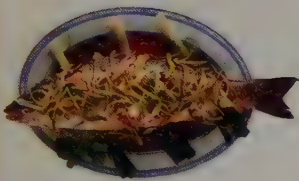
Your turn:



shūcài
vegetables

Your turn:



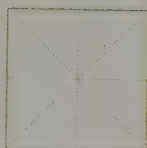
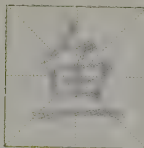


1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8

yú

fish

Your turn:

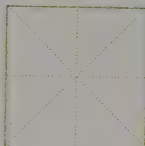
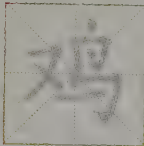


1
2
3
4
5
6
7

jī

chicken

Your turn:

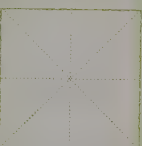


1
2
3
4
5
6
7

shuǐguǒ

fruit

Your turn:

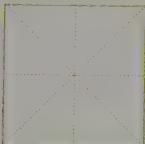


1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9

diǎnxīn

dim sum

Your turn:



Restaurant words

✓ You've chosen what you want to eat. Now you need to communicate with the waiter.

服务员

fúwùyuán
waiter/waitress

Your turn:

服 务 员

菜单

càidān
menu

Your turn:

菜 单

饭店

fàndiàn
restaurant

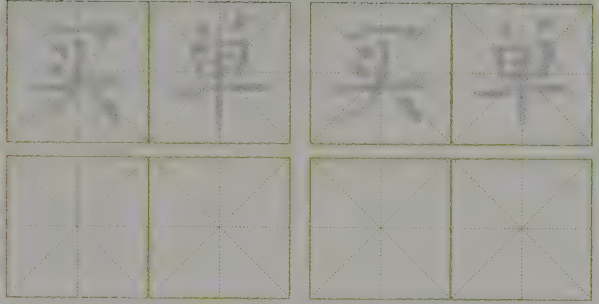
Your turn:

饭 店

买 单

mǎidān
bill

Your turn:



吃

chī
to eat

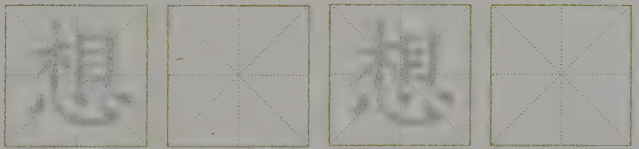
Your turn:



想

xiǎng
to want

Your turn:



Look at the speech bubble. Can you guess what he is saying? Answer in the back.



“Fúwùyuan, wǒ xiǎng
chī diǎnxīn.”

.....
.....

Character practice 8

Practice the characters from this section here.

筷子

碗

勺子

刀

叉

很好吃

我自己来

我吃饱了

米饭

面条

蔬菜

鱼

鸡

水果

点心

More to do!

Keep going. This section includes these characters, too.

服务员

菜单

饭店

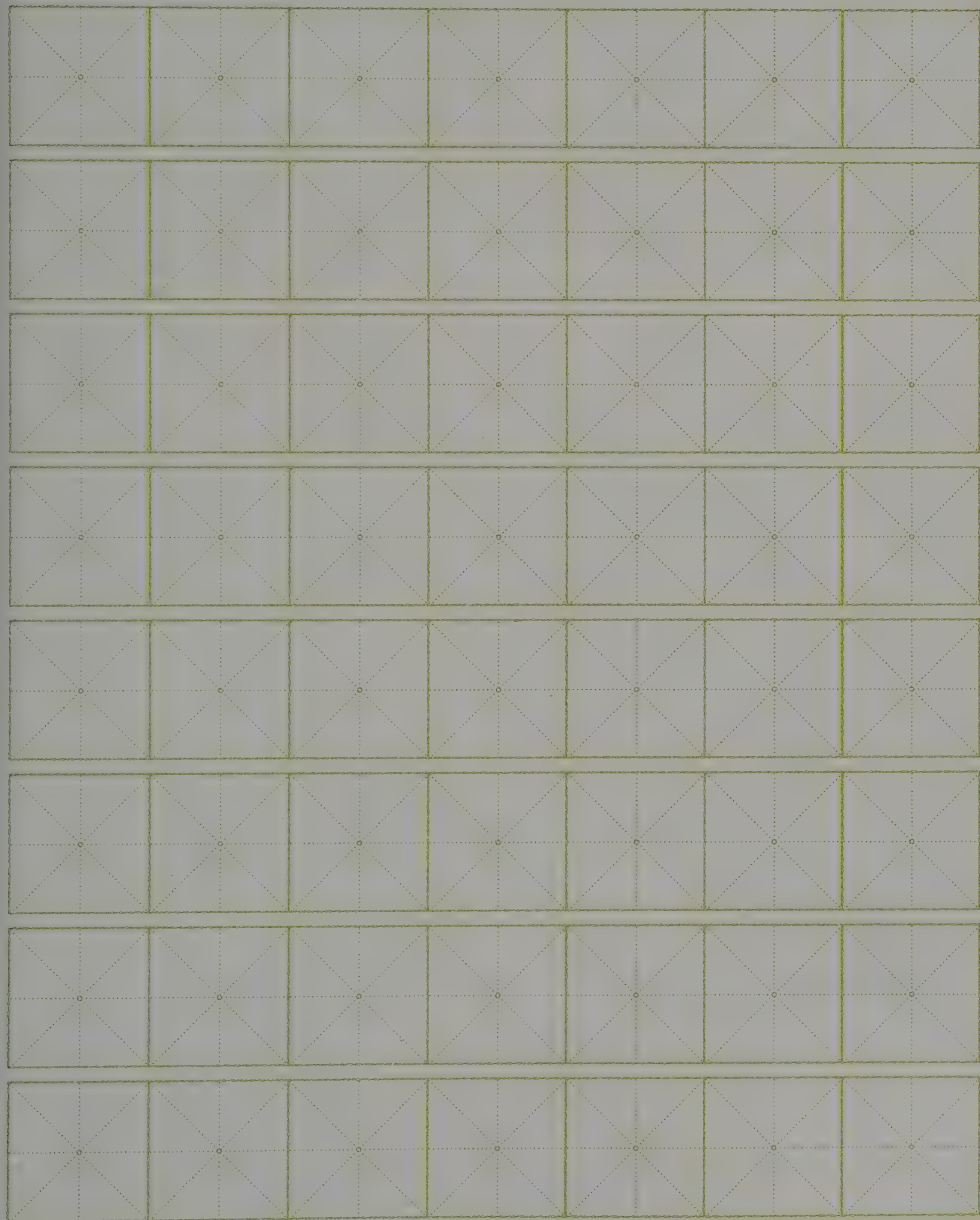
买单

吃

想

Practice squares

Extra space for extra practice!



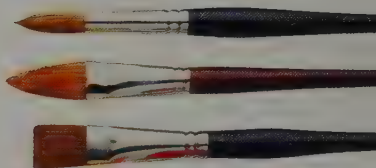
9 Fun and games

Hobbies

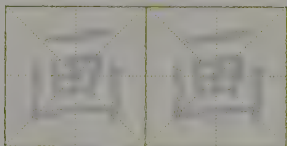
As well as learning Chinese, you may have other hobbies.



huà huà
painting

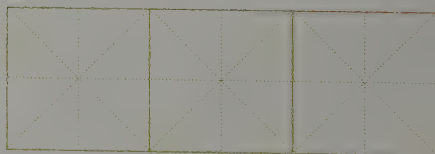


Your turn:



tīng yīn yuè
listening to music

Your turn:



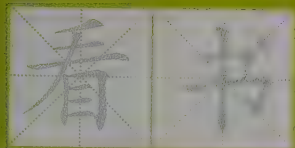
看 书

kàn shū

reading
(pronounced "kan shoo")



Your turn:

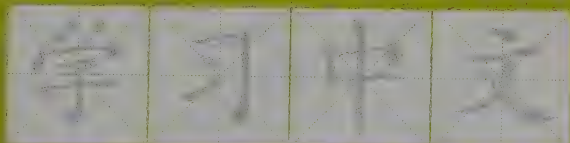
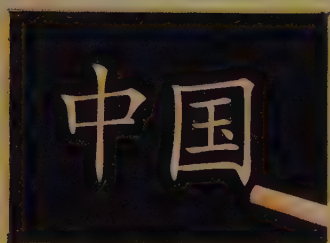


学习中文

xuéxí Zhōngwén

learning Chinese
(pronounced "shoo-ay-shee jong-wen")

Your turn:



Ball games

Sports are important in China, with soccer and basketball being the most popular.



First learn this key character:

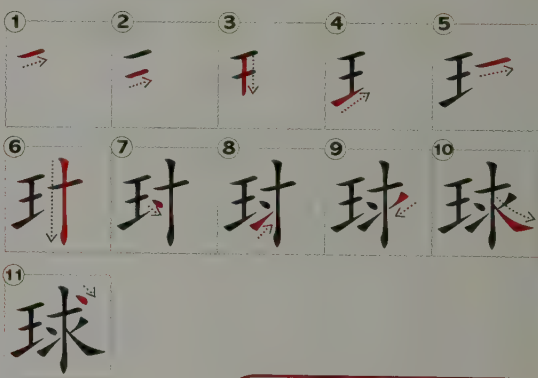
球

qiú

ball

(pronounced "chee-oo")

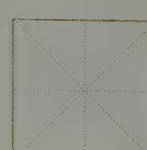
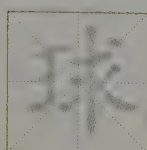
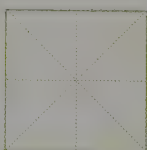
How to write it:



Copy the pinyin here:

.....

Your turn:



网 球

wǎngqiú
tennis

Your turn:

网 球

足 球

zúqiú
soccer

Your turn:

足 球

篮 球

lánqiú
basketball

Your turn:

篮 球

乒 乓 球

pīngpāngqiú
table tennis

Your turn:

乒 乓 球

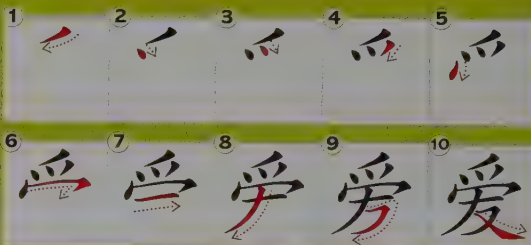
Like it/love it

Learn how to say "I love you" in Chinese.

爱

ài
to love
(pronounced "I")

How to write it:



Copy the pinyin
here:

.....

Your turn:



我爱你

Wǒ ài nǐ.
I love you.
(pronounced "war I knee")



Saying “boo”

Now learn how to say you like, or don't like, things.

First practice writing these characters:

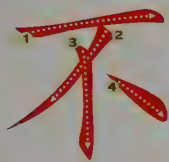
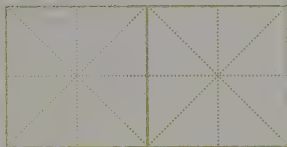
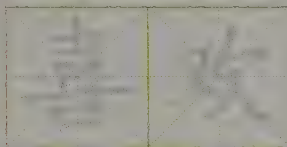


xǐhuan

to like

(pronounced “shee-hoo-an”)

Your turn:

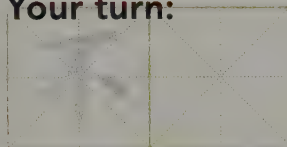


bù

not/no

(pronounced “boo”)

Your turn:



To say you like a sport, you say:

我 喜 欢 乒 乓 球

Wǒ xǐhuan pīngpāngqiú.

I like table tennis

To say you “don't like” something, you add “bù” in front of the verb:

我 不 喜 欢 网 球

Wǒ bù xǐhuan wǎngqiú.

I don't like tennis.

Character practice 9

Practice the characters from this section here.

画画

听音乐

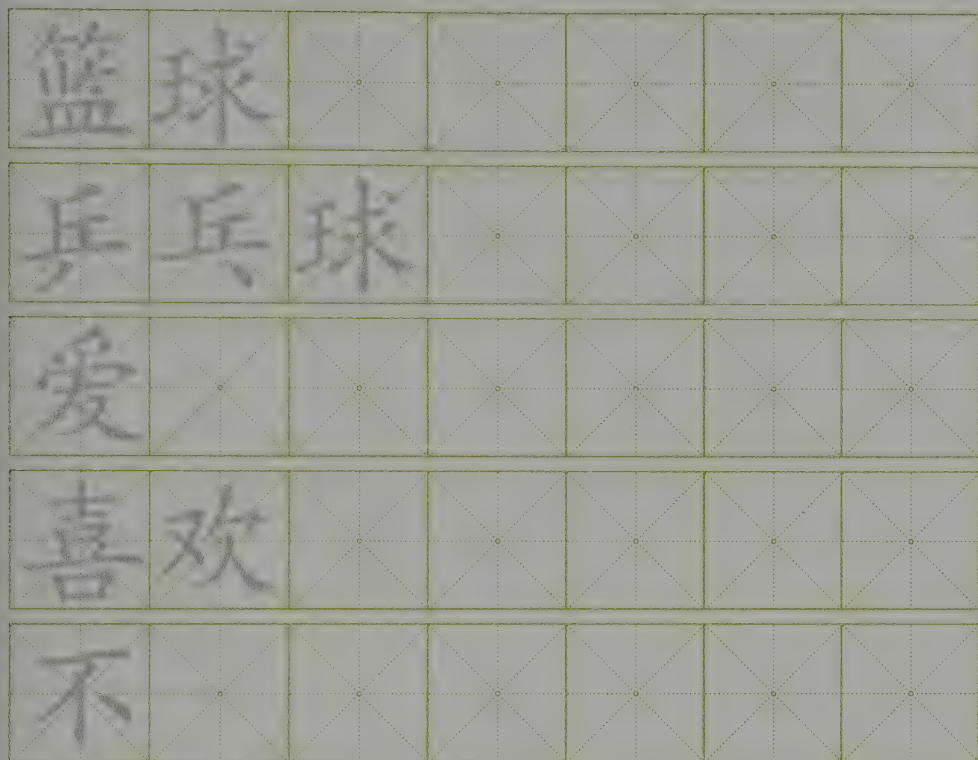
看书

学习中文

球

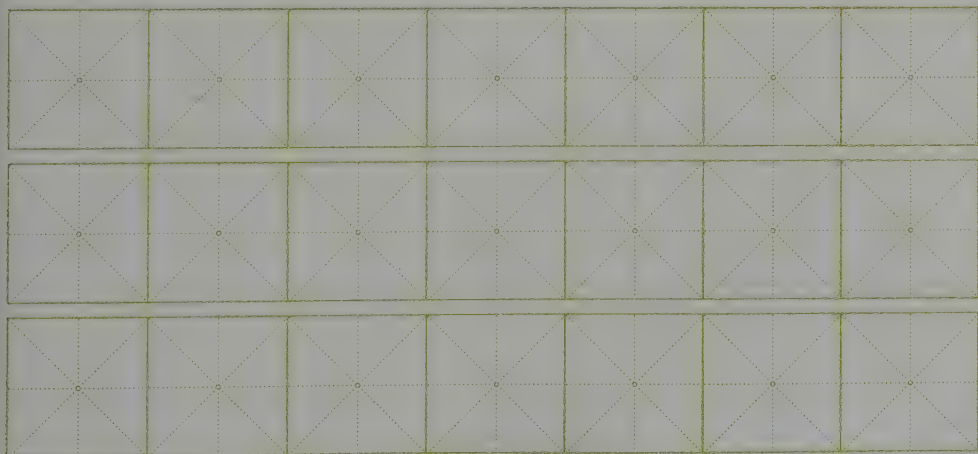
网球

足球



Practice squares

Extra space for extra practice.



10 A trip to China

Beijing

The thriving capital city of China is home to beautiful palaces and a hundred-acre city square.

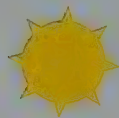
Around Beijing, you can see...

看

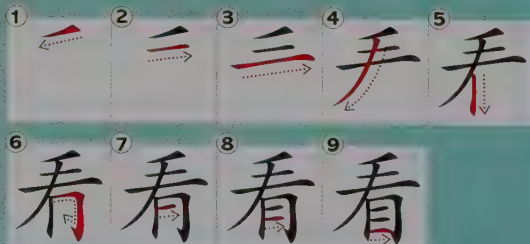
kàn
to see

Picture it

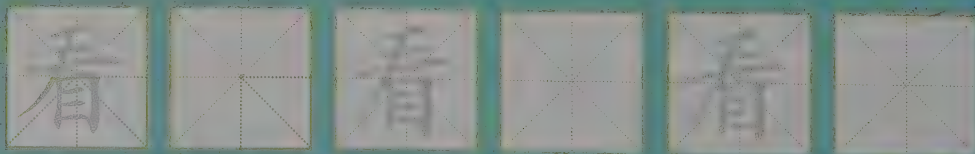
看 kàn ("to see") includes a hand above an eye, as though shielding your eyes from the sun.



How to write it:



Your turn:



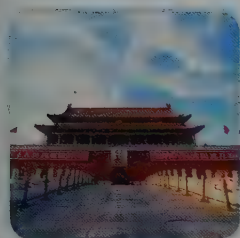
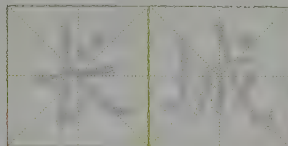


长城

Chángchéng

The Great Wall

Your turn:

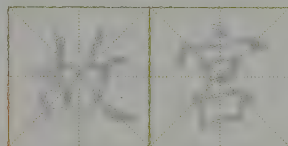


故宫

Gùgōng

The Forbidden City

Your turn:

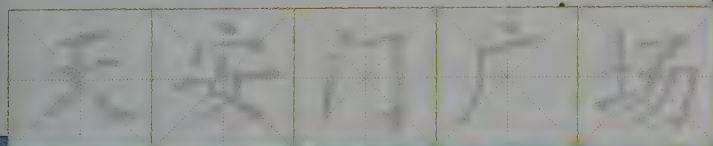


天安门广场

Tiān'ānmén Guǎngchǎng

Tiananmen Square

Your turn:



A day in the country

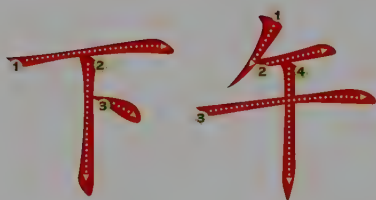
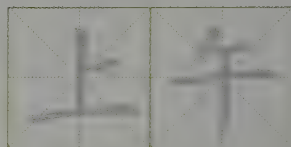
China is not all big cities. It also has a beautiful and varied countryside.

First learn the characters for morning and afternoon.



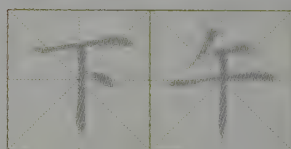
shàngwǔ
morning

Your turn:



xiàwǔ
afternoon

Your turn:



Picture it

This might help you remember the characters.



above
shàng

上

+

午

= morning

下

+

wǔ
midday

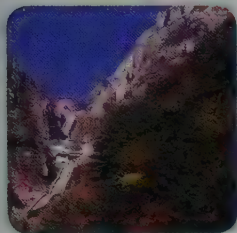
= afternoon

Plan your day

Now say what you are going to do in the morning and afternoon.

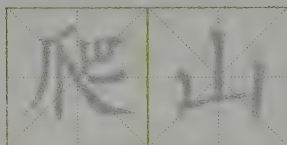
Write the characters in the boxes.

Morning 上午 



pá shān
climb a mountain

Your turn:

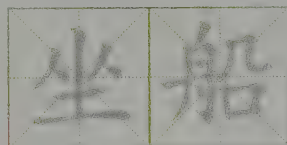


Afternoon 下午 



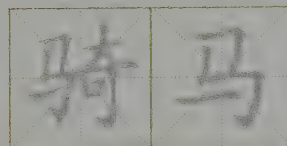
zuò chuán
take a boat ride

Your turn:



qí mǎ
ride a horse

Your turn:



Useful phrases

These phrases will help you get by in China.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Qǐng nǐ zài shuō.

Please can you say it again.
(pronounced "ching knee z-eye sh-war")

Your turn:

请 你 再 说

--	--	--	--

你说英文吗?

Nǐ shuō yīngwén ma?

Do you speak English?

Your turn:

你	说	英	文	吗	?

我听不懂

Wǒ tīng bù dǒng.

I don't understand.

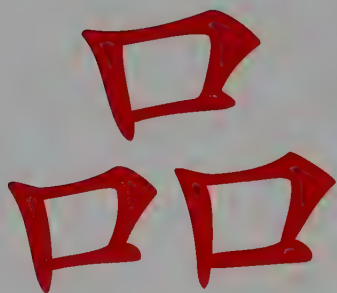
Your turn:

我	听	不	懂



Shopping list

Need some souvenirs? Time to go shopping!



pǐn

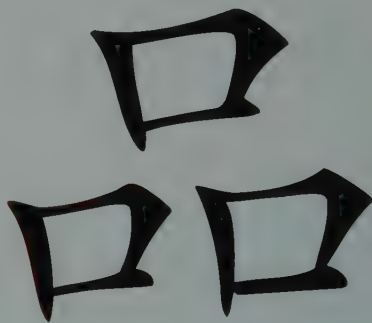
thing / article



Getting the stroke order right for boxes is useful because they often appear in Chinese characters.

Picture it

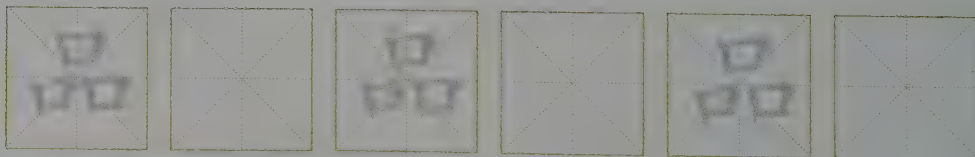
The character shows three containers. Draw some things you would like to buy in the boxes.



How to write it:



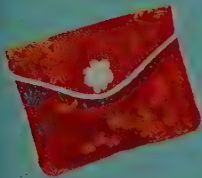
Your turn:



Here are some things you might buy:

Your turn:

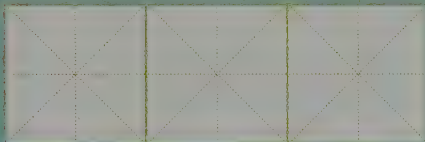
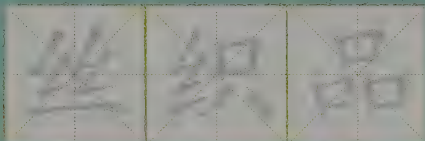
丝 织 品



sīzhīpǐn

silk

(pronounced "suh-juh-pin")



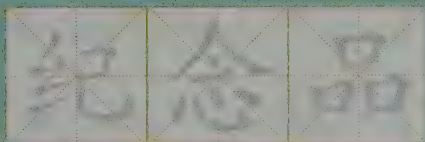
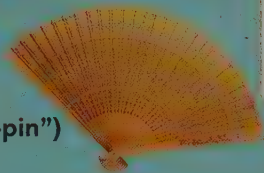
Your turn:

纪 念 品

jìniànpǐn

souvenirs

(pronounced "jee-nee-en-pin")



Your turn:

工 艺 品



gōngyìpǐn

crafts



Festival!

If you are in China in late January or early February, you might be lucky and catch Chinese New Year.

If so, you will definitely find this phrase useful to know.

新年快乐!

Xīnnián kuàilè!

Happy New Year!

Your turn:

新年快乐!



On New Year's Eve, family members get together for a meal and fireworks are set off.

On New Year's Day, people visit family and friends and a dragon dance may be held.



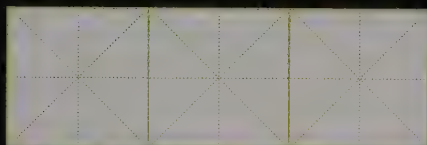
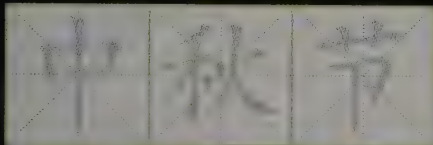
Let's party!

There are other major festivals in China.

中秋节

Zhōng qiū jié

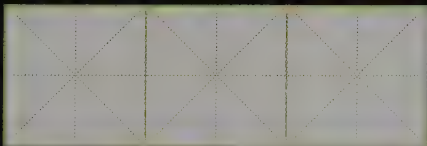
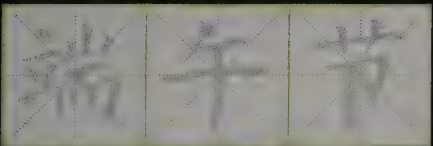
Your turn: Mid-Autumn Festival



端午节

Duān wǔ jié

Your turn: Dragon Boat Festival



Wherever you go, and
whatever you do in
China, have fun learning
Mandarin Chinese!

Character practice 10

Practice the characters from this section here.

看

长城

故宫

天安门广场

上午

下午

爬山

坐船

骑马

请你说

你说英文吗？

我听不懂

品

More to do!

Keep going. This section includes these characters, too.

丝织品

纪念品

工艺品

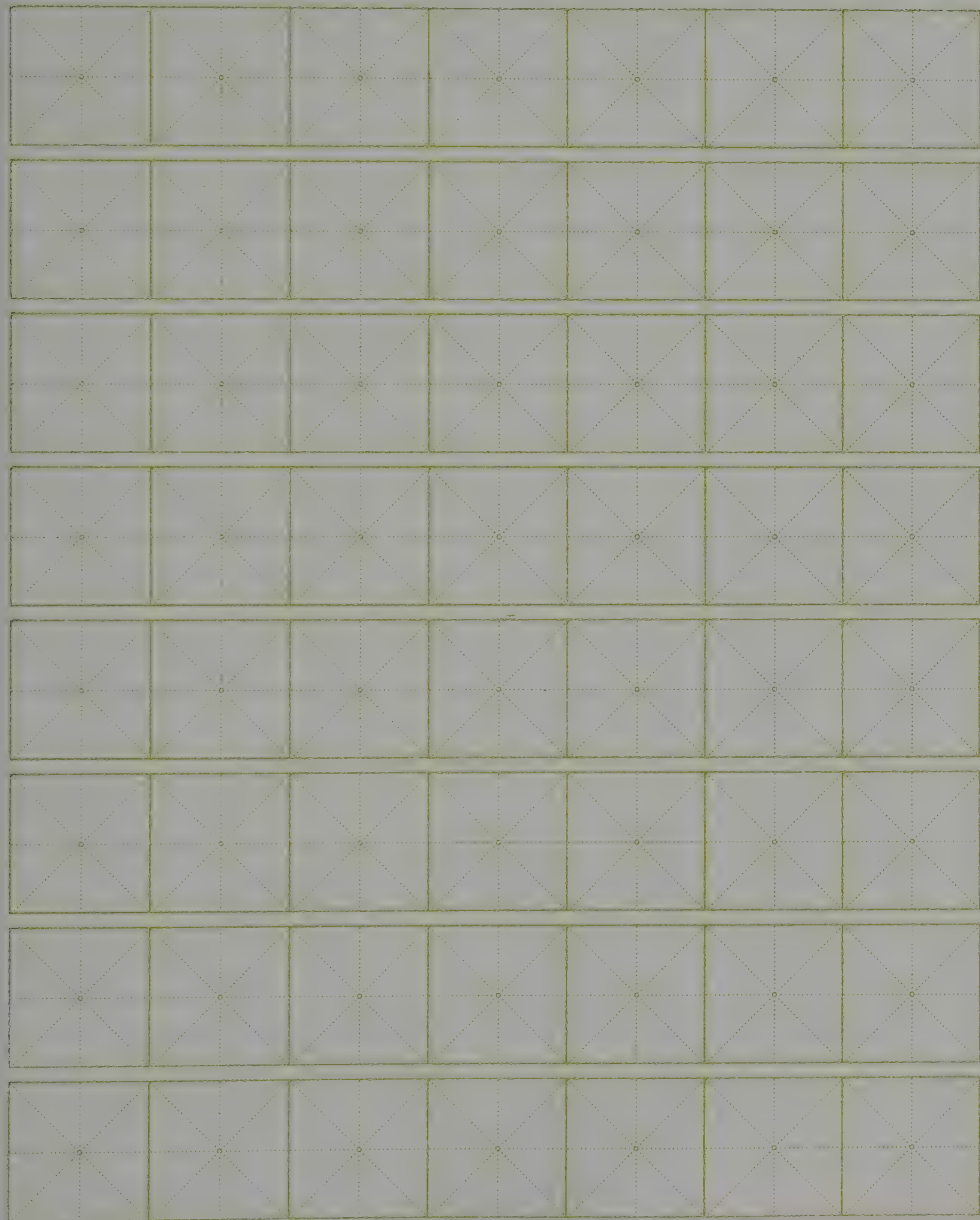
新年快乐！

中秋节

端午节

Practice squares

Extra space for extra practice.



Certificate



Congratulations to:

for successfully finishing this book.

好哇, 干得漂亮!

Hǎo wa, gànde piàoliang!

Bravo! Well done!

Date:



Remember the golden rules
of writing: If in doubt, write
top to bottom, left to right!

Pronunciation guide

Pinyin is like a language all its own. Use this rough guide to help you pronounce the words in this book.

Initial	Sound
---------	-------

b	baw
p	paw
m	maw
f	faw
d	duh
t	tuh
n	nuh
l	luh
g	guh
k	kuh
h	huh
j	gee

Initial	Sound
---------	-------

q	chee
x	she
z	dzuh
c	tsuh
s	suh
zh	jir
ch	chir
sh	shir
r	rj
w	ooh
y	ee

Final	Sound
-------	-------

a	ah
ai	i
ao	ow
an	ahn
ang	ahng
o	aw
ong	oong
ou	oh
e	uh
ei	ay
en	un
eng	ung

Final	Sound
-------	-------

er	ar
i	ee/uh
ia	ya
iao	yaow
ian	yan
iang	yahng
ie	yeh
in	een
ing	eeng
iong	yoong
iu	you
u	oo

Final	Sound
-------	-------

ua	wa
uo	waw
ui	way
uai	why
uan	won
un	un
uang	wahng
ü	yoo
ue	oo-weh
üan	ywan
ün	ywen

Useful words

Use this alphabetical list of words from the book for quick reference.

afternoon	xiàwǔ	下午
at	zài	在
autumn	qiūtiān	秋天
ball	qiú	球
basketball	lánqiú	篮球
bicycle	zìxíngchē	自行车
big	dà	大
birthday	shēngrì	生日
brother (older)	gēge	哥哥
brother (younger)	dìdi	弟弟
to buy	mǎi	买
car	qìchē	汽车
chicken	jī	鸡
China	Zhōngguó	中国
Chinese person	Zhōngguó rén	中国人
chopsticks	kuàizi	筷子
cold	lěng	冷

dim sum	diǎnxīn	点心
to drink	hē	喝
east	dōng	东
to eat	chī	吃
to enter	jìn	进
father	bàba	爸爸
fish	yú	鱼
fruit	shuǐguǒ	水果
to go	qù	去
good-bye	zàijiàn	再见
hello	nǐ hǎo	你好
hot	rè	热
I	wǒ	我
knife	dāo	刀
to like	xǐhuan	喜欢
to love	ài	爱
man	nánrén	男人
menu	càidān	菜单
moon	yuè	月
morning	shàngwǔ	上午

mother	māma	妈妈
no / not	bù	不
noodles	miàntiáo	面条
north	běi	北
to paint	huàhuà	画画
person	rén	人
please	qǐng	请
rain	yǔ	雨
restaurant	fàndiàn	饭店
restroom	cèsuǒ	厕所
rice	mǐfàn	米饭
to see	kàn	看
silk	sīzhīpǐn	丝织品
sister (older)	jiějie	姐姐
sister (younger)	mèimei	妹妹
to sit	zuò	坐
small	xiǎo	小
soccer	zúqiú	足球
south	nán	南
souvenir	jìniànpǐn	纪念品

spoon	sháozi	勺子
spring	chūntiān	春天
to study	xuéxí	学习
summer	xiàtiān	夏天
table tennis	pīngpāngqiú	乒乓球
tea	chá	茶
tennis	wǎngqiú	网球
thank you	xièxie	谢谢
thing / article	pǐn	品
ticket	piào	票
train	huǒchē	火车
vehicle	chē	车
waiter	fúwùyuán	服务员
to want	xiǎng	想
west	xī	西
where	nǎr	哪儿
which	nǎ gè	哪个
winter	dōngtiān	冬天
woman	nǚrén	女人
you	nǐ	你

Answers

p.19 1) zàijiàn 2) xièxie 3) nǐhǎo

p.23 1) Fàndiàn zài nǎr? 2) Shūdian zài nǎr?

3) Cháguǎn zài nǎr? 4) Cèsuǒ zài nǎr?

p.26 1) 请进 2) 请坐 3) 请喝茶

p.38-39 1) 小 2) 大 3) 大 4) 小

p.43 Zhè shì wǒ de māma.

p.53 Geography test 1) Jiānádà 2) Yīngguó

3) Hélán 4) Měiguó 5) Fǎguó 6) Zhōngguó

Your turn 1) Nǐ shì nǎ guò rén?

2) Wǒ shì Měiguórén. 3) Wǒ shì Fǎguórén.

4) Wǒ shì Riběnrén.

p.58 1) 15 2) 40 3) 18 4) 14 5) 23 6) 71 7) 99 8) 58

p.59 1) 230 2) 60,000 3) 4,300 4) 90,000

p.81 1) yòubiān 1 zuǒbiān 2

2) yìzhíxiǔ 1 yòubiān 2 zuǒbiān 3

p.83 2) wǔ diǎn 3) jiǔ diǎn bàn 4) èr diǎn èrshí fēn

p.95 Literally: "Waiter, I want to eat dim sum." but a better translation is: "Waiter, I'd like some dim sum."

About the author



Elinor Greenwood graduated from Leeds University with a degree in Modern Chinese Studies. She has lived and worked in China for many years. She presently lives near Cambridge, UK, and divides her time between writing language books and teaching children Mandarin. She is the author of *Get Talking Chinese* and *Fun and Easy Chinese*.

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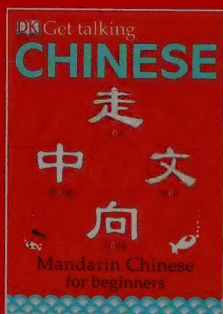
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